FOGHORN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST OSBORNE GROUP FOG

Vol. III No. 6 March, 1984

INDEX

FROM THE FOG

3 ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Election Time*** *by Frank Morton*
Please vote! and other notes about the election.

3 ***West Coast Computer Faire and EXEC BIOS Upgrade*** ..... *by Gale Rhoades*
How to get discount tickets and announcement of the availability of the Executive BIOS upgrade.

4 ***Fixes for the Osborne Versions of SuperCalc²*** *by Sorcim*
The fixes from three of the problems you've been having with SuperCalc².

5 ***FROM THE EDITOR: "Author Unknown"*** *by David Oates*
A message for contributors and other notes.

6 ***Osborne Special Offering*** ..... *by OCC*
We're repeating this again so that new many new members aren't left out. See February for more details.

TIPS FOR TYROS

12 ***A Second Look at Programming with MBASIC*** *by John Gaudio*
A sequal to February's article for the beginner.

12 ***Rigging a go-to-page key*** ..... *by Benjamin H. Cohen*
This is a short demonstration of a use of WordStar'sQuick Find function.

13 ***Patch WordStar to Help Level 2*** *by Bob Hamilton*
Here is the step by step procedure for your first experience with WordStar's INSTALL.COM.

HELP

13 ***or, That's not a BUG, it's a Feature*** *by Bradley S. Albom*
The return of this favorite features new solutions and new problems.

ARTICLES

14 ***C from the Top Down — Part 2*** ..... *by Dave Ring*
Second in a series about the C programming language.

16 ***A Data Entry System in MBASIC*** ..... *by John Gaudio*
More on the program created in a February article.

17 ***Self-Publishing on an Osborne*** *by Margaret Regis*
From the author of ***OSDEX*** comes this summary of her journey to the finished product.

18 ***The Day After Christmas*** *by Ronald D. Schaefer*
Poetry in salute to his Ozzie.

BOOK REVIEWS

20 ***Proportional Spacing on WordStar*** .. *by Randy Shafer*
One of two reviews on the same book.

20 ***Proportional Spacing on WordStar*** *by Benjamin H. Cohen*
Another review of this book.

HARDWARE REVIEWS

22 ***MD20, The Hard Disk*** ..... *by Michael J. Winter*
If you are getting short on space....

23 ***SuperCalc/WordStar Templates*** .... *by Randy Shafer*
Crib notes for the Ozzie user.

23 ***Mannesmann Tally MT160L Printer*** *by Kenzel P. Manning*
A multi-purpose printer.

SOFTWARE REVIEWS

25 ***SPL*** ..... *by author unknown*
A software aid for slow printers.

27 ***Tank Encounters, Scores*** ..... *by Irene Cohen*
An action-graphics game to the Osborne.

27 ***Superfile*** ..... *by Francesca Thoolen*
Data management for the iris breeder.

SYSTEM NOTES

32 ***Make Fine Print*** ..... *by Dick Ezzard*
Condensed condensed printing with the Epson printer, or how to pack more onto a page.

33 ***WordStar Blinking Cursor and Arrow Keys Auto-Switched*** ..... *by Bob Hamilton*
With the help of a program from the FOG library, you can improve your WordStar.

33 ***Disk Doctor for Double Density*** ... *by Jonathon Owens*
If you have double density and Disk Doctor, be sure to read this.

33 ***Blink the Cursor*** ..... *by Scott Stockton*
More on the subject of the missing blinking cursor.

34 ***User Area Numbers*** ..... *by Jonathon Owens*
Using this feature to storing two single density library disks on one double density disk.

35 ***Redirecting AUTOST.COM to use DATTIM.COM*** . *by Benjamin H. Cohen*
How to date your SuperCalc² automatically.

dBASE II

35 ***Using the dBASE II REPORT Command for Mailing Labels*** ..... *by Mark Scaramella*
More ways to fool this function.

37 ***Searching in dBASE II*** ..... *by Jeffrey Evans*
A discussion of the substring function.

37 ***Crude Graphics with dBASE II liby Mark Scaramella***
Emulating SuperCalc's graphics.

FOG MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

39 ***FOG Disk Library News*** ..... *by Jim Woolley*
Ten new disks and some helpful hints.

41 ***EXECUTIVE Library Notes — March 1984*** *by Jim Switz*
Five new disks and how to modem contributions to Jim.

EXECUTIVE

43 ***Executive Bugs*** ..... *by Jim Switz*
The first article in this new column discusses some of the known bugs and some solutions.

REGULAR FEATURES

2 ***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION***
7 ***LETTERS***
28 ***CALENDAR***
46 ***FOG MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS***
42 ***CONTACTS***
47 ***FOG MEMBER MERCHANDISE***

The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer. The ***FOGHORN*** is published monthly by the First Osborne Group for its members. A subscription providing bulk mail delivery to an address in the U.S. is included with membership in FOG for $24.00 per year. See chart below for the additional postage required for other locations. Address all inquiries to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

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Corporate Secy ..... Robert B. Kavinoky
Trustee ..... John Gaudio

FOG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Submissions

All articles, letters-to-the-editor, member announcements, classified ads, etc., should be WordStar files, "D" mode (except for program listings), with NO PRINT COMMANDS, and Hyphen-Help OFF. The submissions can be sent on diskette by mail (to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474), copied to a FOG diskette at a First FOG of Silicon Valley meeting, delivered (by arrangement) to a FOG officer, or sent by modem to the editor (408-249-5223) or the FOG RCP/M at (415) 755-2030. "By Modem" is by far the most convenient method. If you don't have a modem, get together with a friend who does and send your file. It will be a fun experience. If you send your contribution on disc and specify the disc you would like, we will overwrite your disc with one from the library.

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Commercial Advertising

Commercial advertisements must be submitted as camera ready copy.

Size limitations for advertising are as follows:

full page: 7" x 9.5"
half page: 3.5" x 9.5" or 7" x 4.75"
quarter page: 3.5" X 4.75"

Rates, effective with the March, 1984 issue are:

$450/full page, $250/half page, $175/quarter page

For advertisers who wish to run ads in three sequential issues, a special rate is available. Three months at the rate in effect at the time the order is placed and paid in full providing the ads are run in the subsequent three issues. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the rates monthly and increasing them as the membership grows.

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Submission Deadlines

All material is due two months in advance of the month of publication. (October 1st for the December issue). No exceptions will be made for advertising material. This change is necessary if the ***FOGHORN*** is to be mailed before the first of the month. Articles which are not month-specific may be submitted at any time. Please, avoid the deadline rush; contribute early.

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Back Issues — Reprints

Reprints of ALL back issues are available. The current cost of back issues is $1.50 per issue to partially cover reprint and mailing costs. Non U.S. members should include funds for AIRMAIL postage. Donations of additional sums will be gratefully accepted.

Not all issues are of value to new members. Vol. 1 No. 1 (October, 1981) was primarily a greeting and a plea for help in getting this group going. Vol. 2 No. 3 (December, 1982) was a 2 page issue with holiday greetings and an advertisement for SuperGraphics. Mailed with this issue was a copy of the original bylaws which have since been modified several times.

There were 11 issues in Vol. 1 since we put out a combined issue for June and July, 1982. For those who are attempting to determine which copies from Vol. 1 are of interest, Vol. 2, No. 2 (November, 1982) has a partial index for Vol. 1. November, 1983 (Vol3, No. 2) has a partial index for Vol. 2.

Mark envelope "BACK ISSUE REQUEST" and include your account-membership number. Please send the order to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Orders are shipped once a week. The index to the previous year is published in the November (#2) issue.

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Copies of Library Disks

FOG members may purchase copies of the library disks from the FOG office if copies cannot be obtained through their local group. Individual disks are $5.00 each. Bulk orders or 10 or more disks earn a discount of $1.00 per disk.

Shipping and handling charges are $5.00 per order or address. This $5 00 charge must be included with every order. Please be sure to include your account-membership number. Orders without this number will be delayed since no disk orders will be shipped without this number.

For a listing of the programs and files in the library, consult the library column in each issue of Vol. 2 (except No. 3 — December, 1982). The section of the library called -FOG/LIB includes both Jim Woolley's material from the library column and a catalog program which lists the name and disk location of each program (but no descriptions).

In response to the many requests, we have published a typeset guide to the library. This has the descriptions of every disk in the library as well as the guidelines for library use. It is a loose leaf, binder punched volume. This format was selected to facilitate updates. Each copy will be in a portfolio. The price is $5.00 which includes shipping by 3rd Class (surface mail). Update pages will be offered on a quarterly basis. Details about the update pages will be announced later.

Affiliated Members Organizations (AMO) may participate in a monthly update service. Only the librarian of an Affiliated Member Organization may make arrangements to participate in this plan. Contact Gale Rhoades at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474 (phone 415-755-4140) for further details.

New additions will be sent to participants in the monthly update service as soon as copies can be made.

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Rebates to Affiliated Member Organizations

Rebates of 25% of the membership rate ($24.00) will be made to Affiliated Member Organization (AMO) on behalf of eligible members. To be eligible for the rebate, the name of the group MUST be on the membership form (or check) when the yearly dues (new or renewal) are paid.

No rebates will be made until the Affiliated Member Organization is formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

Application for Affiliated Member Organization status must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a list of the officers — names and FOG membership number — and a signed copy of the group bylaws. For further details, request an AMO information packet.

It is not necessary that a group be affiliated when the member pays the yearly dues and specifies affiliation for that member to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates will be paid within two weeks of the Board meeting at which the group receives its charter. Subsequent payments will be made on a quarterly basis. Refer all questions about rebates to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

The Board of Trustees has approved a minor change in the rebate policy for groups who are Affiliate Member Organizations. If the AMO has a checking account, the treasurer may collect membership dues for renewing or new members and forward only $18.00 (plus appropriate postal surcharges) to FOG. This allows the group to have immediate access to the rebate funds. Please note that the two requirements for this change will be strictly enforced. ***No personal checks will be accepted.***

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Change of Address

To request a change of address, send the label from a recent ***FOGHORN*** together with the new address either in an envelope marked "CHANGE OF ADDRESS" or on a Postal Change of Address Card to P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please allow at least 30 days for a change of address to be effective.

You should also request that the post office forward any issues that arrive before your address change is posted. You must tell the post office that you will pay forwarding charges since bulk mail is NOT automatically forwarded.

FOG cannot be responsible for additional postage charged because a member delays sending in a change of address.

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Additional Postage Charges

Your membership in FOG ($24.00) covers delivery by Non-profit bulk mail. This rate is only available to members who have bulk mail delivered by the U. S. Postal Service. For those who either cannot receive U.S. bulk mail or prefer first class delivery, please add the appropriate amount (from the chart below) to your payment.

The following is a list of additional charges which must be included with new or renewal memberships effective 9/1/83:

Canada & Mexico (First Class) ..... ADD...$ 6.00
Members with U.S. addresses who prefer First Class delivery to Non-profit bulk mail ..... ADD...$ 6.00
Central & South America, Caribbean, & Europe (Airmail First Class delivery) ..... ADD...$12.00
Asia, Africa, & Far East (Airmail First Class) ..... ADD...$15.00
Out of North America preferring surface mail — delivery not guaranteed ..... ADD...$ 6.00

If you want the new rates to take effect for your current membership, you may prorate the above charges for the remaining term of your membership. For each month remaining, send 1/12th of the above rates.

For those with U.S. addresses who elect to continue receiving their ***FOGHORN*** by Non-profit bulk mail, we have some suggestions for improving delivery. The post office guidelines say that bulk mail can only be traced by the recipient but that delivery in the San Francisco Bay Area should take about seven working days and to the East Coast about 15 working days. We are now taking the bulk mail to the post office before the first of each month. If you are not getting timely delivery of the ***FOGHORN*** you should contact your local postmaster. If he is unable to improve the situation, there is a complaint form at each post office. We have been assured that all complaints are pursued promptly.

We are now paying return postage for all undeliverable copies of the ***FOGHORN***. This allows us to better identify problems. FOG will be responsible for costs incurred remailing a ***FOGHORN*** only if the member has provided us with the correct address in a timely manner. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to drop us a note listing all of the specifics.

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Please help

It is essential that you include your account-membership number in all correspondence.

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FROM THE FOG

Election Time

by Frank Morton

VOTE!

Yes, I realize that is what I said last year at this time! But, the time is here again to practice democracy in action. Democracy, like anything else, has its price. If it is to survive, we all have to support it. By the time you read this you should have had your ballot for several weeks! Hopefully, we have designed the ballot to be less confusing this year. The BALLOT for voting is on one side, while the form for assigning a PROXY is on the other side.

YOU SHOULD ONLY FILL IN ONE SIDE! If you choose to complete the BALLOT side, vote once each for TEN of the nominees for the Board of Trustees! If you choose to complete the PROXY side, you may assign your PROXY to any person of your choice. You may specifically instruct that person to either vote for or withhold the vote from any of the nominees.

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY! Be sure that if the Ballot/Proxy is mailed, it will BE RECEIVED AT: P.O. Box 190, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA by Wed, March 21, 1984. Otherwise, bring it to the Annual Meeting with you! Also, be sure to read the statements presented by the Nominees on the pages which accompany the Ballot. This is your one opportunity of the year to really have a say as to how FOG should be run!

The Annual Meeting will again be held during the time of the San Francisco West Coast Computer Faire. It will be held on the evening of Saturday the 24th of March at the Civic Center Holiday Inn, which is located on Eighth Street near Market Street. Doors will open at 7:00 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. At this writing we are not sure of the exact room number, or the number of people it will accommodate! You can check with the answering machine at 415-755-4140 or the FOG/OCC booth at the Faire.

BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS TO THE MEETING!!! We may be forced to restrict availability of seats to valid card carrying members during the business portion of the Annual Meeting! Nominations from the floor and any other recognition from the Chairman of the Board will be by Membership Number ONLY, with just one designated speaker per membership number!!!

We will have Ron Brown, President and CEO of Osborne Computer Corporation, as our Guest Speaker. He will follow immediately after our short Business/Voting meeting. I am sure we will all be very interested to know how well the Reorganization Plan is working by then! You will want to arrive early, with Membership Card in hand!

This year the West Coast Computer Faire will take place from the 22nd through the 25th of March. The location is the same as in recent years; at Brooks Hall and the Civic Auditorium in the Civic Center of San Francisco. Meetings will be held in the Civic Center Holiday Inn which is nearby. Locations of User Groups' tables at the Faire (including ours) are uncertain at this time. Consequently, we were very pleased when OCC offered to allow us to share their Booth at the Faire. Now you will be able to visit both organizations at the same time! It will also allow all visitors to the OCC booth to be aware of the existence of Osborne Users' Groups and the fact that OCC is serious about supporting them.

The FOG office will be closed for the duration of the Faire. All of the FOG Staff personnel will be manning the booth and helping to answer questions at the Faire. We will have many items available for purchase, such as our famous FOG T-Shirts, back issues of the FOGHORN, etc. We will also have a copy of the latest version of the Diskette Library Directory. At the rate we are currently growing we expect to have close to 11,000 members by the time of the Faire. Therefore, it may be just a bit crowded at the booth. I know you will all attempt to be patient and show your appreciation for all the hard work done by our Staff.

Again, I cannot overstate the importance that YOU, each and every member, needs to participate in our Annual Election! So make your choice and return your ballot — !VOTE!

Thanks for listening ..... Frank

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West Coast Computer Faire, OCC EXEC BIOS Upgrade, and the 1983 Statement of Financial Position

by Gale Rhoades

For those of you who are eagerly searching this issue for the annual statement, please look no further.

Because of the two month lead time for the production of the ***FOGHORN***, the C.P.A.'s who look over our books and prepare the tax returns had not, by late January, had time to do their job. We hope that the financial reports for the year of 1983 will be ready for inclusion in the April issue. Again, we will remind you that anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the tax return may obtain one by sending in their request to the FOG office. As soon as the return is available, we will send it to you.

The 9th Annual West Coast Computer Faire will be four days this year — March 22, 23, 24, and 25. FOG will be sharing booth space with Osborne Computer Corporation — reorganization of the Faire after the sale by Jim Warren and loss of the planned additional facilities necessitated this. Look for us in booth #739 (on the Polk Street side of Civic Auditorium).

For those members who wish to reduce the cost of the tickets ($20.00 for the four days), you may order the tickets from the FOG office. The price is $16.00. **Each order must be accompanied by a check payable to FOG and a stamped, self-addressed envelope** (large — legal size is suggested). I'm sorry this notice is so late by the Faire organizers didn't get word to us until after the February ***FOGHORN*** was typeset.

The 2nd Annual Meeting (and election) will be at 7:00pm on Saturday, March 24th. Unfortunately, the exact location was unknown at press time. You can find out by listening to the message on the FOG office phone (415-755-4140, checking with the FOG booth (No. 739) at the Faire, or reading the ***Random Access Guide*** (the publication of the Computer Faire) or the daily show schedule. We apologize for the lack of specifics but there have been numerous changes in space availability. It is expected though that the facilities will only hold about 200 people so be sure to bring your membership card. Admission will be restricted to the membership for the election. If there is available space after the election, the general public will be admitted.

For those Executive owners who are interested in the correct, permanent fix for the timing loop error on the serial (RS232) modem and printer ports, this fix is available. The 1.1 version of the Executive BIOS will be ready for distribution by the time you read this.

To obtain the new bios and the new SETUP.COM you will also need, **Please** follow the directions below **exactly**:

Send a check, payable to Osborne Computer Corporation, in the amount of $25.00 (this covers the handling charge — nothing can be free these days) to:

Osborne Computer Corporation
ATTN: Executive CP/M Upgrade
26538 Danti Court
Hayward, CA 94545

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Fixes for the Osborne Versions of SuperCalc²

by Sorcim

Subsequent to the release of SuperCalc®² for the Osborne® 1 and Executive computers, some irregularities were discovered in the program. The three problems are as follows:

Screen repainting incorrectly after manual recalculation.
Manual recalculation causing program to exit to system.
Inability to override printer initialization string as set under INSTALLS.

All of these problems can be remedied by using the MAINTAIN program that is on your master SuperCalc² diskette(s). You will be using the REVISE option of MAINTAIN. Be sure to follow the instructions on pages 17 through 22 of Appendix F of your Super Calc² manual. Both the SC2.COM and SC2.OVL files will need to be revised.

Here are the two different routines. One is for the Osborne 1 and the other is for the Osborne Executive. Take special care that you read them thoroughly before applying them.

OSBORNE 1 OWNERS

CAUTION: If after running the Revise option, you find that Revision code **ACOA** has been entered on file SC2.COM, you cannot use this routine. Contact Sorcim Customer Support for further information.

This routine should be made only to a work copy of SuperCalc² and not to the original master SuperCalc² diskettes. Do not write any information on the original SuperCalc² diskettes. Apply this modification **only** to version 1.0, and **only** to the Osborne format (identified as part number 14-131-50, or with serial numbers starting with 1146-XXXX).

The supplied "Hard Copy Revision" is as follows:

Name of file for revision: **SC2.COM**

The Revision Code is: **ABON**

Line Number 1: HFA AAF AAA BDH DCO IDJ

Line Number 2: GPK PDC IAA DMJ DKI ALF

Line Number 3: ADL HMM FFH AMJ MNA FGJ

Line Number 4: AAD OAB DCI AAD MJD KFI

Line Number 5: KCC HLH MKA KCK CBL MGO

Line Number 6: CKM DAH CKD KGF FPL KCK

Line Number 7: DPN ICB FFF PMD DHC KEM

Line Number 8: HOL LMA DHM JFC AAA EKO

Line Number 9: AGM DJK ADF CAA DED GCG

Line Number 10: MDK HAD FCA ABI BKC BON

Line Number 11: FNF PFC AAD BDD MDL DHN

Line Number 12: ADP PPP AAA AAA AAA AMK

Line Number 13: MKP ODC EBA EJP PLF MBH

Line Number 14: X

Name of file for revision: **SC2.OVL**

The Revision Code is: **BCAH**

Line Number 1: CNA ACP AAA MAO MNI BHA

Line Number 2: ADC PAA EFE HMN IJA DEN

Line Number 3: DCA AEK EMM NJB ADP PHA

Line Number 4: PPA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAD

Line Number 5: CCH EPL KLO PGC GKN LOP

Line Number 6: X

OSBORNE EXECUTIVE OWNERS

This routine should be made only to a work copy of SuperCalc² and not to the original master SuperCalc² diskette. Do not write any information on the original SuperCalc² diskette. Apply this modification **only** to version 1.0, and **only** to the Osborne Executive format (identified as part number 14-131-57, or with serial numbers starting with 1147-XXXX).

The supplied "Hard Copy Revision" is as follows:

Name of file for revision: **SC2.COM**

The Revision Code is: **ACDG**

Line Number 1: HFA AAF AAA BDH DCE GDJ

Line Number 2: HAK PDC IAA DMJ DKI APG

Line Number 3: ADL HMM LDH AMJ MNA FFM

Line Number 4: AAD OAB DCI AAD MJD KFI

Line Number 5: KBC HLH MKA JCK CBL LCK

Line Number 6: CKM DAG CKD KLO FPL KMN

Line Number 7: DPN ICB KOF PMD DGC KJH

Line Number 8: HOL LMA DHM JFC AAB HKO

Line Number 9: BJC BLG FPF CAA ADA FKC

Line Number 10: MDJ KAD FCA ADD DFM DAP

Line Number 11: KHA DFC AAD ADC MDL DHO

Line Number 12: ADP PPP AAA AAA AAA AMK

Line Number 13: IKF DDP CJE MIK NCH LAE

Line Number 14: X

Name of file for revision: **SC2.OVL**

The Revision Code is: **BCEM**

Line Number 1: CNA ACP AAA MAO MNI BHA

Line Number 2: ADC PAA EFE HMN IJA DEN

Line Number 3: DCA AEK EMM NJB ADP PHA

Line Number 4: PPA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAD

Line Number 5: CGA FGD NEE ELF OMH NPM

Line Number 6: X

Should you have difficulty implementing these routines, please contact Sorcim Customer Support at (408) 942-0522.

At times some of our customers have asked why Sorcim does not publish fixes when they become available for a particular problem. There are several reasons for this policy and here are a few of the major ones:

1. Sorcim feels that customer support is vital to the success of our company and we intend to provide the best support possible for registered users of our products. (Registered users are those persons who have agreed to our licensing agreement by signing their registration card and returning it us.) If we begin supporting illegal users of our software, our support for legal users will surely suffer.

2. When a second or third party gets involved in transmitting our fixes, there is greater opportunity for errors to be introduced. Not long ago one of our routines was published without our permission and a typographical error was made in one of the codes. We

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were getting calls for weeks from upset users, some of whom did not even need to apply it.

3. Our products are available for several different machines and operating systems. Quite often problems that do occur apply only to specific machine/program/operating system combinations. It is important that Customer Support obtain this information from the user to be sure that the correct routine is sent.

4. Occasionally we find an error in a product format that has already had a routine developed for it to correct a different problem. When this occurs, we try to develop one routine that corrects all known problems. Quite often the all-in-one routines will conflict with the routines that have already been applied. Customer Support keeps a record of the serial numbers of all programs that have had routines applied. In this way we can prevent potential problems before they arise.

The reason for this exception to our policy is twofold. First of all, the problem detailed above applies to all Osborne 1 and Osborne Executive formats of SuperCalc² version 1.0 and therefore it is easy to target the affected users. Also, it has come to our attention that some people have taken it upon themselves to transmit these routines without our permission. By publishing this article, we hope to prevent any misinformation or inaccuracies from occurring.

SuperCalc is a registered trademark of Sorcim Corporation.
Osborne is a registered trademark of Osborne Computer Corporation.

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FROM THE EDITOR
"Author Unknown"

When submitting an article to the ***FOGHORN***, PLEASE remember to put your name in the file; not just on the diskette label or in an accompanying letter. When I edit, I **VIEW** disk files with NSWEEP (thanks to Dave Rand), collect them on my Trantor, and then print them out to edit on hard copy. Your diskettes are put in the RETURN DISKS container. If you haven't written "by Your Name" on the file, it means a time consuming search back through the Disks for Return.

By the way, if I received your authorless submission by modem, then I'm (we're) in real trouble. As with the review of SPL in the SOFTWARE review section of this issue, material left for me on the FOG Remote Bulletin Board System (RBBS), having no author information, gets an author name something like "From the FOG RBBS, author unknown."

More on "Co-processors"

Last month, I listed some of the companies offering, or thinking of offering, add-on devices to give 16-bit processing to the Z80 computer users. I'm sure that there are probably more companies making such things, I only mentioned those that have been brought to my attention. Anyway, just as I was finishing my work on this issue, I saw another in the Feb. 13th ***InfoWorld***. In the **New Products** section Data Technology Industries, 701-A Whitney Street, San Leandro, CA 94577; (415) 638-1206, is offering "A 16-bit 8088 co-processor..." that "...will add a second chip and either 128K or 256K RAM to any CP/M 2.2 computer... As a co-processor it gives the user the option of running CP/M 2.2, CP/M86 or MS-DOS." The "board" is available for Osborne computers (among others) and is priced "under $400" to "under $500".

Another announcement, in the same section of ***InfoWorld***, tells about CP/M Companion, "...a Z80-based computer intended primarily to expand existing... CP/M computers...". I'm sorry to say that I am not able to understand how I would use it or what it would do for my system. Maybe someone could research/review and explain it to me (us). "The retail price is $1095." Contact, Companion Computers, 192 Deerfield Road, Apex, NC 27502; (919) 362-6655.

Another Subject — Bay-to-Breakers

If any of you are going to join the **Bay-to-Breakers** run (or crazy annual happening or ??) in San Francisco this May, drop me a line, maybe we can wear FOG t-shirts and be an unofficial team, or meet on the beach at the end for a cheer, or I don't know what! Suggest something. I get there early and start up at the starting line — I'm not fast, just eager — so I'd rather not try to meet before the start unless you'd like to be an early bird with me.

David M. Oates
Editor

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LOOKING FOR LOCAL GROUPS?

For the name(s) of Affiliated Member Organizations closest to you, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

First Osborne Group (FOG)
P. O. Box 3474
Daly City, CA 94015-0474
United States of America

Join the Fun and Learn More!!

* * * * * * *

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LETTERS

Dear Reader:

First, a short, SHORT, "program". Have you ever been using PIP, hit the RETURN key too soon and had to reload it, waiting the time it takes to Read the file off of the disk into memory? Even more frustrating is when you get kicked out of WordStar and have to wait until that long file can be reloaded so you can go about correcting your blunder? If so, try this (now don't laugh until you at least try it):

On every disk you own, insert it in drive A (it must have system tracks) and at the A> type in:**Save 0 redo.com <cr>** NOTE: 0 is the numeral "zero" not the letter "o".

That is my "program". Now, put in your utilities disk with REDO.COM added to it. It does not take up any disk space, but it does count as one of your 64 directory entries. At the A> type **PIP <cr>** and note the time involved to locate and load PIP into memory. At the * prompt, type <cr>. Now you are back into CP/M. At the prompt, A> type **REDO <cr>**, instantaneously you get the PIP prompt, *.

The benefit is even more pronounced on a longer file, such as WordStar. It, too will load in an instant.

Why is REDO.COM such a powerful program? When you issue the command REDO, CP/M loads that file (containing nothing at all) into memory and begins execution at location 0100H. Since we have not changed what was there, it goes ahead with the last program we were using. No disk read, no load time, just a quick fix for an earlier error. Try it, you'll like it (I hope). I would like to take credit for this, but the inspiration comes from **ZEUS**. Seriously. The **Zorba Equipment Users Society (ZEUS)** discovered this feature. More power to them.

Speaking of **ZORBA**, brings up my second reason for writing this letter. In response to Randall J. Shafer, Pontiac, MI who wrote in the December issue that the ***FOGHORN*** may not be the appropriate place for a review of the ZORBA, I strongly disagree. On page two of every issue, the FOG's stated purpose is to form "a user's group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer." Regardless of the current state of affairs at OCC (I have a double density O-1) I appreciate information about products which I may consider for future upgrades (ZORBA is supposed to release a new model with a co-processor option the first of '84). I do not want to see ***FOGHORN*** become totally involved in product reviews, but those in keeping with the purpose of the FOG (portable computers, NOT just Osborne) are welcome.

New topic: **BDOS errors**. While I have not experienced this problem (knock on wood), I have heard that improper grounding of the disk drives has been a culprit for some members of our user's group. Those with excessive BDOS errors may want to open their case and check out these ground leads.

New topic: This addresses two topics. Thomas Jones of Greenbelt, MD wrote requesting the patch to change the HELP level in WordStar. I do not know the answer to that specifically, but I use two of my function keys to do that and several other things when I first load WordStar. Some of these could be patched, but why not use Ozzie's keys for their purpose? Several people have requested publication of function key setups, so here are mine for WordStar:

^1 = ma:envelopes<cr>
^2 = ^Jh1^Oj^Oh^Ona<cr>^Oi5<cr>^Oi10<cr>^Oi40<cr>
^Or80<cr> ^Os2<cr> ^V^Pa (NOTE: all of this is on one line with NO spaces)
^0 = b:<cr>d

Explanation:

^1 => Merge print my envelope format stored on disk A. (The file merges with a temporary file, B:LIST that I use when writing letters.

^2 => Set help level at 1 (<= This is my biggie — it gives you full screen editing)
Turn off hyphen help and justification
Clear all tabs
Set tabs at 5, 10 and 40 (40 is the center)
Set right margin at column 80
Set up for double spacing
Turn off INSERT
Print ^A (turn on Alternate Pitch — Elite)

^0 => Log on to B, edit document mode (get to point of asking for file name)

When I write, I load WS.com in drive A, press RESET and RETURN. When it is ready and I have a disk in B, I press control 0. Next I enter the file name, <cr> and as soon as I am into the file, I press ^2. I only have to do this once for each session, and all of my options are consistent. In fact, I couldn't even remember the commands since I have used ^2 for so long!! I had to SETUP to view my keys so I could write this letter!

Finally, with OCC working with the FOG and other groups as part of their reorganization, it seems that one place that FOG could help its members is to encourage OCC to honor its commitment to registered double density O-1 owners to deliver the P-System. Even in the mail-out I got in December offering O-1's and Executive's at "discount" prices (I have seen new Executives advertised for $1395, so I don't feel the offering was exceptional — certainly not "near dealer prices"), there was no mention of P-System for O-1's. It is included with Executives, but it was promised to O-1 DD owner's. If OCC doesn't want to send it out as they promised and as they announced in ***Portable Companion***, at least it should be offered for a nominal charge to cover processing, documentation and postage. How 'bout it FOG — can we get OCC to do something for us while we show our willingness to compromise by paying a processing fee?

I imagine that I have overstayed my welcome by now, so I'll stop. Thank you for an excellent publication.

Ben L. Clark
Hartwell, Ga

* * * * * * *

Dear Reader:

In the November ***Tractor Tails*** [the newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Osborne Computer User Group], Marcia Miller-Dowdy mentioned the problem of centered page numbers using WordStar in a character pitch other than the default. Let me offer the following suggestions:

WordStar, when set up to work with a microspacing printer such as a Diablo or C. Itoh F10, computes the position for the default page number at the bottom center of the page using the default character pitch spacing. If you have changed the character pitch with a .CW dot command, simply use the .PC n dot command where n is half the width of your page. In other words, if you have a right margin at column 70, n is 35. When recomputing the position of the page number, WordStar will use the latest specified pitch spacing.

Since I do almost all my printing in 12-pitch, I have used the Install program to set the default pitch of WordStar to 12-pitch. This is done by reversing the numbers in locations 037C and 037D. The .PC dot command is then not necessary as long as I stay in 12-pitch.

Best regards,
?????????

* * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN*:

It would seem that with the collapse of OCC and the ***Portable Companion*** (both temporarily I hope), we have lost a very valuable source of computer information and software advertising for the Osborne. I subscribe to, or purchase from newsstands, a number of magazines, but few seem to have adds or lists of any software which is Osborne compatible. I would therefore like to see more ads and reviews for Osborne stuff in the ***FOGHORN***. Realizing of course that you cannot endorse any products, but being somewhat of a "cheap program Junkie", I have and would be willing to take my chances. I certainly hope the software houses will continue producing programs for our machine, hopefully for some time. I don't plan on buying another computer for quite a while since I am completely satisfied with what I have. I am sure the Osborne will not become obsolete for a good many years, at least for the purposes for which I use it.

Speaking of the ***Portable Companion***, I hope that it will be reinstated by whoever takes over OCC. I suppose it would foolish to assume publication will resume under Chapter 11. Any feedback on this? It was a great source of info on the 01. Probably the only really good one, other that the ***FOGHORN*** of course. I saw a reference to the October '83 issue in your last ***FOGHORN***. Was this correct? I don't believe I have anything after August. Perhaps I should mention here that I subscribe to ***Os/tech*** but have not gotten anything from them in quite a while either. Did Fred Dunn give up too? Think I'll send him a copy of this.

I recently received my copy of SuperCalc2 and must say I'm impressed with the new features and especially the accompanying manual. If you want to learn SuperCalc, it is one of the best written pieces of documentation I've seen, far superior to the Osborne Users Guide. The package is well worth the $50.00.

The article by Bob Scott a couple of issues ago, indicated he would be a source of info on the Okidata model 92. His address was not included, but since he seems to be sort of a regular contributor, I'm hoping this will get to him. The manual I received with my 92 (Feb. '83) was very poor and gave absolutely no information on installing WordStar. I did get a data sheet from Okidata, after calling them, for installing the model 82, 83. I managed to install about 70 or 80 percent, but got fouled up on some of the USER's which were wrong. I have been able to use most of the printers facilities by using HexPrinter but it's a little cumbersome and haven't been able to do any graphics. Also I cannot get condensed print form SuperCalc2 which I need since the 92 only takes 9 1/2 " paper. does Okidata have a new and better manual out now? If not perhaps Mr. Scott can spread some light on my dilemma.

The ***FOGHORN*** is an excellent publication and appears to be getting bigger and better. Keep up the good work! I only wish I could contribute something worth while, but I'm afraid my only programming accomplishments of an original nature, are some engineering programs in Basic which I have written for my own use and would be somewhat unintelligible to anyone even a fellow engineer. My computer skill is mostly self taught. I have not joined a local group as yet. I did send an inquiry to the group Pres. in Northridge, CA, but what I got back was an application form and an advertisement for some kind of software he sells. Evidently he has a computer or software store here in the San Fernando Valley, but I have never bothered to stop by there since I was sort of turned off by his reply. I seem to get the impression that they are not actively seeking new members and I have never seen them mentioned in the "Calendar." Not too much activity in So. California!

Dean Lensing
Tarzana, CA

[Dean, to print "condensed " (17 cpi) form SC2, send ^] from the Setup, Setup part of the Output command. ^] is the "key" for character GS (decimal 029, hex 1D). Likewise, send ^\ (char. FS, dec. 028, hex 1C) for 12 cpi. I use these frequently with an Okidata 93. David]

* * * * * * *

Epson <--> Fingerprint

Your readers may be interested in my experiences, and my resulting love-hate relationship, with the Epson Printer Company.

I purchased my first Osborne, a double density Osborne 1, on January 31, 1983. It was not co-incidental that this was the last date to get the "free" d-Base II package with the computer.

This was my first computer, and I had much to learn and experiment with. About a month later I felt ready to print my work product, and I visited my Osborne dealer to ask his recommendations for a printer. As a result, I took delivery, the next day, of an Epson model MX 100 printer.

It was hard to figure out how to run the printer, because it came without a manual. The dealer promised to deliver the manual "soon". It took 3 1/2 months. By that time I had figured out most of the basic operating procedures, but had also come to realize that the printer would provide many more functions which I did not know how to access. I was anxious to do compressed print (for W I D E supercalc spreadsheets), not to mention double-strike, perforation skip, italics, fine print, and many more features. When the manual finally arrived I read it eagerly, but felt let down. Although I then knew that the printer would do these things, the explanations were so inadequate that I could not conceive how anybody could possibly operate the printer satisfactorily with what Epson must jokingly refer to as the "printer manual". Those of you who have read the early Epson MX manual will know what I mean when I say that the author probably got great enjoyment out of his writing, but failed to impart much useable knowledge to the uninitiated such as me.

Back to my dealer. After all, I paid list price for both the Osborne 1 and the Epson MX 100, so I was entitled to some support. The dealer TRIED to be helpful, but he just didn't know how. So on July 11, 1983 I wrote to Epson , asking them to help. On July 15, 1983 I got a polite reply referring me to the local authorized Service Center, that was "better equipped to respond to my request". They did not explain how the Service Center might know more about the operation of the printer than the manufacturer, and as the Service Center would not reply to my letters, I was unable to find the answer to that question — much less how to get the printer into compressed mode.

Another letter [was sent] to Epson on September 27, asking why their Service Center would not answer me, and also asking why they wanted to keep the operation of their printer a secret, got the anticipated response — no reply.

This would have been a sad story, if I had not been fortunate to discover, quite by accident, a device called "FINGERPRINT". This was advertised as a plug in device to access all the advanced features of the Epson printer by tapping the external buttons on the printer. I sent off my $65 to the company and received a plug in unit which I found very easy to install (a screwdriver was all that was needed). I can now access the following Epson printer features, virtually instantaneously, and FAR faster than any software access —

Compressed print
Double wide print
Emphasized print
Double-strike
Perf. skip
Left margin indent
8 lines/inch
Italics
Fine print

I must say that the "FINGERPRINT" device makes the Epson printer a much more versatile instrument, and at least doubles its functional value.

There are some unanswered questions that intrigue me. First, why does a Company like Epson ignore a customer like me in such a crude manner. Is this the accepted standard in the computer industry?

Second, if "FINGERPRINT" can make the Epson printer so easy to control, why, for heavens sake, cannot Epson design their printers this way in the first place. If I can retro-fit my printer at a cost of $65, surely Epson could build a similar facility into their printers during the manufacturing process, at FAR less cost, and for the benefit of many, many printer users. I will be interested in your readers comments on these subjects (I despair of attracting Epson's attention to this question).

I have no connection with the manufacturer of "FINGERPRINT", but I commend them to your readers. They are Dresselhaus Computer Products, 837 East Alosta Avenue, Glendora, CA 91740.

Bryan G. Gaggs
Santa Barbara, CA

[*I assume that the problems that Mr. Gaggs ran into, have been eliminated by now (?). If Bryan is still using his FINGERPRINT, exclusively and has not learned how to access the various print modes from within his application programs, he is missing out on a great deal of system power. Maybe someone can writeup a simple explanation of the MX command codes for us — anyone want to be the FOG, Epson MX helper? David*]

* * * * * * *

Dear Editor

While browsing through the FOG library list, I noticed that you didn't list a copy of the SPOCK picture, which is one of several that have been running through the big system (IBM 360/370) system networks for years. Since everyone I know is interested in this particular picture, I thought I might add it to the library.

I got this picture from the Beaverton, Oregon RCP/M (Dave Morgan, SYSOP). His tale of transcription is quite a story in itself. The picture was originally found on a BURROUGHS computer stored on 9-track tape. Nine regenerations of the tape later, it was IBM-readable, and was loaded onto an ALPHA MICRO with a tape drive and a PHOENIX hard-disk. Then, onto another ALPHA MICRO which transmitted it to a NORTH STAR, also with a hard-disk. The NORTH STAR ran the picture through one more formatting program, which resulted in the picture in print format and squeezed to save space. (Quite a process, and I include the details here so the work involved doesn't go unacknowledged)

Because the picture is large, 125 columns by about 3 feet (times 4 parts) the suggested method of printing is to use TYPESQ of XTYPE and CP/M's CTRL-P function. Even squeezed, the picture won't fit on a 90 track single density disk.

If you print on an 80 column printer (in compressed mode), you can adjust the line spacing so that lines begin to overlap and the proportions will be pretty close.

Enclosed, you will find two diskettes, The first with the text of this letter and parts 1 and 2 of the SPOCK picture. The second has parts 3 and 4. Even though the picture is squeezed, it won't all fit on a single density diskette.

I hope you find this picture interesting, and if interest is as great as I've found it here, this picture should be very popular.

Bruce A. Carrie
Scappoose, OR

[*I sent the disk to Jim Woolley and SPOCK should be in the FOG library even before you read this! David*]

* * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN*:

I am an avid reader of the ***FOGHORN***. I enjoy every article and usually read the copy from cover to cover. I always find several articles which I can use or help me in using my OSBORNE 1. I have one of the old tan and black ones and I'm still in love with it. I have just recently had DD installed by the ex-dealer here in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia. They did a fantastic job and in just 3 days.

Now on to the main point of this letter. I have just read a letter from Mr. Randall Shafer of Pontiac, MI. (December 83 ***FOGHORN***) In his letter he criticized Mr. Hurst and his writing style. I wish to say this about Mr. Hurst and his prolific writing for the ***FOGHORN***. HURRAY!!! I find his articles interesting and useful. I also appreciate his writing about the OSMOSIS DD. I did not consider it an unfair review or criticism but rather constructive criticism, meant to assist OSMOSIS in upgrading their product and support.

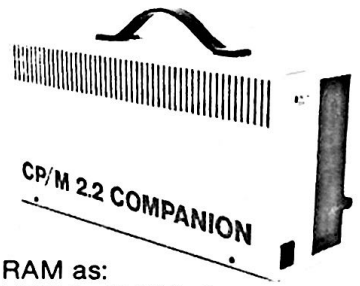
Also it generated a lot of comments (both for and against) from people who otherwise would not have written. This in turn provided me with some ideas about which route to follow in upgrading my OSBORNE 1. Unlike Mr. Shafer, I like to read articles about other machines because one of these days I may want to purchase another machine or I may offer advice to someone interested in purchasing a computer and let's face it, it is a bit hard to recommend let alone buy an OSBORNE right now. As I see it, FOG is a group of CP/M Users most of whom happen to own OSBORNES; however that does not preclude me from learning and using programs used on other Z80 CP/M machines. So, I for one, would encourage you and people like Doug Hurst to keep writing regardless of the type of machine used. I LIKE IT. In fact I'm still waiting for the third article of a three part series by Mr. Hurst on using DU-V77. I have started using DU-V77 and I want to read more about it. Is it coming soon at your nearest ***FOGHORN***?? I hope! I hope! I hope!

Bob Hamilton
% ARAMCO
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

[*I just checked the mail that I have for the next issue and I don't see the "3rd", yet! David*]

* * * * * * *

SATISFY YOUR DRIVES



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Dear FOG:

For more than a year now I have been reading ***FOGHORN*** and gaining many useful tips. Now it is my turn to share a couple of things I've discovered. First a maintenance tip on MPI drives. A short squirt of Television Tuner cleaner with Silicon lubricant sprayed on the two rods that the head carriage rides on will quiet the drives considerably. You have to take the 0-1 apart to get inside the drives, but it is well worth the effort. I came across the program FAST.COM by Tom Vyse on Utility disk 20. There is a note that it might not work on Double Density. I checked the .DOC file and the Osborne Tech Manual. The program works with Double Density as well as Single Density. It shortens the track-to-track delay time by poking 0 to location 0EF13h. **THIS ONLY WORKS WITH MPI DRIVES.** MPI DRIVES HAVE THE LITTLE TAB HANGING DOWN IN THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DISK DRIVE SLOT.

The program works and drive accesses seem to go faster. The greatest benefit is that the drives run quieter. Now here is where I got clever. I have used the AUTOST.COM assembly language source code (from Utility disk 9) to customize the start-up on various disks. So I decided to put FAST into AUTOST. While I was at it, I took out all the steps and data which put the Graphic 0 on the screen. The result is an AUTOST that speeds up my disks and shortens the time it takes to get to my favorite programs. Give it a try and see how you like it.

Here is the listing I have been using.

```
;-----------------------------------------------
; AUTOST.ASM-version 1.0--10/12/81

;copyright 1981 by Thom Hogan
;                  Basically Speaking Press
;                  Palo Alto, CA
;
; This program loads and executes WS.COM.
;Modified by Tim Snyder to eliminate Logo and add FAST 09-25-83.
;
;-----------------------------------------------
;
; EQUATES
;
clear       equ     26          ;clear screen
pbuff       equ     9           ;BDOS print buffer
bdos        equ     5           ;location of BDOS
cr          equ     0dh         ;carriage return
lf          equ     0ah         ;line feed
;
; START OF PROGRAM
;
                    org     0100h
;
            lhld    01          ;get warm start address
            mvi     l,00        ;zero L register
            mov     a,h         ;get page boundary in A
            sui     16h         ;subtract 16 to find CCP
            mov     h,a         ;put back new page boundary
            shld    ccp         ;store it
                                ;THE NEXT TWO LINES ARE FOR MPI
                                DRIVES ONLY.
            MVI     A,0         ;PUT 0 IN A REGISTER
            STA     0EF13H      ;ADDRESS FOR DISK SEEK DELAY PUT 1
                                IN ADDRESS FOR 6ms DELAY
start:      lxi     d,startgr   ;point to start graphics
            call    print
            lxi     d,endmes    ;point to load message
            call    print
            lxi     d,filename  ;point to file name
;You may need to change next line. See note below
            lxi     b,10        ;set counter
move:       lhld    ccp         ;get CCP back
            mvi     l,07        ;bias by 7 bytes
            call    again       ;move file name to CCP
            lhld    ccp         ;get CCP back
            mvi     l,88h       ;offset to counter
            mvi     a,08h       ;lsb of ccp pointer
            mov     m,a         ;put it in place
            lhld    ccp         ;get CCP one more time
            mvi     l,89h       ;offset to counter
            mov     a,h         ;put it in place
            mov     m,a         ;counter restored
            lhld    ccp         ;get CCP last time
            pchl                ;execute cold start
again:      ldax    d           ;get byte to move
            mov     m,a         ;move it
            inx     h           ;increment location
            inx     d           ;increment location
            dcx     b           ;decrement counter
            mov     a,b         ;get counter in a
            ora     c           ;check if done
            jnz     again       ;...not done
            ret                 ;...done
print:      mvi     c,pbuff     ;get proper call in c
            jmp     bdos        ;do it
;
;STORAGE AREA
;
ccp:        ds      2
;temp storage of CCP

filename:   db
8,'WS      ',0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
;
;               length of command string.
;               command must be followed by at least one zero to work
;               properly.
;
 note: if command string is longer than 8 characters, you must change
       ''lxi b,10'' just before MOVE: to ''lxi b,length+2''
;
;
;
;
;
startgr:    db      clear,'$'
endmes:     db      cr,lf,lf,lf,lf,9,9,'Loading WordStar...'
            db      cr,lf,9,9,'With FAST Disks'
            db      cr,lf,lf,'$'
;                                       /
;                                  message to print
;
end
```

Now, does anyone know how to modify BIOS to be able to use a double-sided drive? Adam Osborne may not have wanted to risk using a Double sided drive, but I'd like to try.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to ***FOGHORN***. You've been a big help.

Tim Snyder
Glenside, PA

* * * * * * *

Dear Editor:

I was a little late in reading this month's ***FOGHORN*** (Feb.84) and lo and behold an article that I should have read right off was in this issue. The article that I am referring to is the "Courier/Password Modem" by Jerry Boyce. We advertise that very modem in the ***FOGHORN*** and have for several month's now. I was sorry that he did not obtain the Courier/Password Modem from us but that was I guess a little before we were advertisers in the ***FOGHORN***. I was sorry that he missed all those fancy light's but for about $175.00 more than he paid he could have them in other modem's.

I wanted the 0-300/1200 baud modem but could not afford the $600.00 or so they wanted for that model so was going to a 300 baud instead. I happened to meet a person who could furnish me with a 0-300/1200 modem from US Robotics. I further found that I could offer this same deal to other Osborne user's, therefore the ad in the ***FOGHORN***.

To this date none of the customers that have bought the Courier/Password Modem have had any trouble with them nor have I had complaints. This I feel was due to the fact that I first used the modem on my Executive before I sold any. I wanted to see first hand if it was all it was cracked up to be. I found it to be an excellent modem.

I have never tried to sell the software that can be sold with the US Robotics because I knew that we,Osborne User's group member's, could obtain the modem 712 free from the library and it is compatible with the Courier/Password Modem. Therefore you can get the Courier/Password Modem for the advertised price of $395.00 and that would be for a 0-300/1200 Baud/Auto dial/Auto answer/Modem. It also come's with a RS-232 cable and connector in place. So with the free software you are ready to go.

I hope that the rest of the user's can see what a good deal this really is and that they would not have to go through what Mr.Boyce did.

Now due to the price of advertising etc. we will not be able to offer this modem at this low price much longer. I hope to here from you other user's soon.

For better Osborne computing.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Moore

Principal,F/M COMM

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ATTENTION

Page 2 of every ***FOGHORN*** is reserved for membership information. Please refer to it for the additional postage charges for 1st class and non-U.S. delivery of the ***FOGHORN***.

An Open Letter to Adam Osborne

17 Dec 1983

Dear Adam,

Ron Brown said there is no Adam at Osborne.

No Adam at Osborne! How can that be?

Randall Shafer said no ZORBA's in the ***FOGHORN***.

No Adam at Osborne! No ZORBA's in the *FOGHORN*.

When I am distressed, I put on my funny suit, sit on a bench at fisherman's Wharf and absorb myself in the passing crowd.

No Adam at Osborne! No ZORBA's in the *FOGHORN*.

I make a balloon. **No Adam at Osborne!**

I make a rude noise. **No ZORBA's in the *FOGHORN*.**

I get a lot of funny looks and once in a while a knowing comment.

It is midnight and my head is full of turmoil.

No Adam at Osborne! No ZORBA's in the *FOGHORN*.

I am sitting at my Blue Double Density OSBORNE (the label says KAYPRO II) and am thinking of THE BABY BLUE OSBORNE (IBM-PC) or the dark brown DD-DS OSBORNE (ZORBA). How can they say **No Adam at Osborne? OSBORNE** was an idea and the thinker was **ADAM. OSBORNE** is not the Shell company that is OCC. **OSBORNE** was and is an affordable Personal Computer complete with Software to do a Job for anyone with a desire to have a computer. No matter what name you put on it, it is still an OSBORNE.

I was thinking of ***Casey at the Bat***. But you didn't strike out.

Yes Virginia, there is an Adam at Osborne.

Yes Virginia, there is a place in the *FOGHORN* for every OSBORNE regardless of name.

Sincerely yours,
Dave Blair
(LOVE MY OSBORNES)

• • • • • • • •

Have a problem?

As the office gets better organized, more of my time is available to help sort out problems. I am slowly working on some guides to specific common problems, collecting and collating from a wide variety of sources

I am particularly interested in obtaining copies of any printer manuals I don't yet have. So many new members are having problems getting their printers installed for their computers. Copies of the manuals make it much easier for me to help. Contributions are gratefully accepted. Swaps are possible.

Any topic suggestions will also be gratefully accepted. The plan is to assemble a large binder of solutions and distribute through the local A.M.O.s. Once assembled, we will update these binders as new information is collected.

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TIPS FOR TYROS

A Second Look at Programming With MBasic

John Gaudio

Last month's article took you through the basics (no pun intended) of running Mbasic, and the process of entering, listing, running, correcting, saving, and loading a very simple program. We'll use those skills here, so review the previous article if you have any questions. [*See page 2 of this issue for information on how to order back issues. — Gale Rhoades*]

To write a really useful program we need to be able to store information, work with it, and have the computer present us with the results. To store a piece of information, say a number, we use something called a variable. Think of a variable as an envelope with a label on the outside. One such envelope might be labeled TAXRATE. Imagine that the number to be stored in this envelope is written on a piece of paper, and that you store it by putting that piece of paper, number and all, in the envelope. Each envelope is allowed to have only one value in it at a time, but you can change that value anytime you wish. You can have lots and lots of envelopes though, so long as each has its own unique name.

Of course there are no envelopes or pieces of paper tucked away inside your computer, but Basic does set aside little bits of its memory, and allows you to name them and store information into them. These memory locations are called variables, and they work just like the envelopes above. You can store the number 0.071 in a variable called TAXRATE. You can then store the amount 10.00 in a variable called PRICE. Finally you can print out the price, the tax (TAXRATE multiplied by PRICE), and the total. In Mbasic we add, subtract, multiply, and divide with the following symbols:

+ add
- subtract
* multiply
/ divide

Now enter this program in Mbasic.

```
10 LET TAXRATE = 0.071
20 INPUT "WHAT IS THE PRICE? ", PRICE
30 LET TAX = TAXRATE*PRICE
40 PRINT
50 PRINT "THE TAX IS ";TAX
60 PRINT
70 PRINT "THE TOTAL IS "; PRICE + TAX
80 PRINT
90 END
```

In this program three variables are used, TAXRATE, PRICE, and TAX. In line 10 we use the LET command to store 0.071, the tax rate for Denver, into a variable called TAXRATE. In line 20 the INPUT statement asks the person running the program "WHAT IS THE PRICE? ." The computer then waits for the user to type in a number. For this example you should type in the number 10, meaning ten dollars. The INPUT statement then takes whatever number you type, and stores it away in the variable PRICE. In line 30 we have another LET statement. Here the product of TAXRATE and PRICE is calculated, and the result is stored in the variable TAX. Lines 40, 60, and 80 simply display blank lines to make the output look a little bit nicer. Line 50 tells you what the tax came out to be, and line 70 gives the total, that is the price plus the tax.

We could have used names like P for price, R for rate of tax, and T for tax. In fact we could have just used variable names like A, B, and C. Mbasic doesn't really care too much what you call the variables. For your own peace of mind though, select the variable names to mean something to you, the programmer. It'll make writing, debugging (that means fixing mistakes), and changing your programs a lot easier. One more thing on variable names. Words like LET, INPUT, PRINT, and several others have very special meanings to Mbasic, and cannot be used as variable names. Look through the reference section or quick reference section of your manual if you suspect a variable name may be reserved by Mbasic. If you run into an error in what seems to be a perfectly good line, try changing the names of any variables you suspect.

Now that you've entered the program, type the command RUN, answer the question on price with the number 10, and notice that Mbasic correctly responds with .71 for the tax, and 10.71 for the total. Mbasic then gives you the OK prompt. From there you can run the program again and enter a new price, or you can save your new program to the disk. Don't forget to save your program because next month we'll be adding some new features to it. We'll look at creating a loop so that you can enter several prices, getting the tax and total for each without having to type the command RUN every time. We'll also look at ways to make the numbers Mbasic shows you come out with the right number of decimal places, regardless of the price you enter. Don't forget that you don't have to stop with this simple example. Write a program of your own to accept three bowling scores and give you the average, or one that tells what you'll owe at the end of a year if you enter a loan amount and the interest rate. Both of these programs, and many many more can be written with just the tools I've shown you so far.

John Gaudio is the Founder and Past President of the Denver Osborne Group. He is a frequent contributor to the Denver ***DOGBYTES.*** *This article first appeared there in the column* ***From the Puppy Farm.***

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Rigging a go-to-page key

by Benjamin H. Cohen

My first word processing experience was on a Wang system, which has a feature called GO-TO-PAGE. You push the GO-TO-PAGE key, enter the page number, hit the <Execute> button and presto, you're at the top of that page.

WordStar doesn't have a go-to-page command among its manifold features, but you can achieve just about the same result using the search or ^QF, Quick Find, capacity.

To go ahead a page at a time, simply search for a carriage return (^N). Since WordStar allows you to specify the number of times you want to search as one of the options, simply enter "55" (or whatever number of lines you are using) as an option and you will move ahead one page at a time. Actually, this might vary a bit, since lines with dot commands will be counted in the search. It might not come out exactly right, but it does work.

The sequence of keystrokes is **^Q^F^N<CR>55<CR>**. If you put this in a special function key or use Smartkey II to store the sequence, you can move ahead a page at a time with just two keystrokes.

To search backwards a page, add a "b" before the last <CR>. To move to page 10 from the beginning of the file, use 550 instead of 55. It's a big help when you want to move about in a large file.

Benjamin H. Cohen is president of Chicago's First Osborne Group. For information on joining this group, contact Rob Troxel, P. O. Box 943, Libertyville, IL 60048

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Patch WordStar to Help Level 2

by Bob Hamilton

Mr. Thomas Green (December 83 ***FOGHORN***) asked about the label and address for resetting help level in WordStar. The label was published in the ***Portable Companion***, December 82. It is ITHELP and is found at address 0360. Mr. Green may use WordStar's INSTALL.COM to make the change by doing the following (I am paraphrasing the computer response.) Placing the disk with INSTALL.COM in drive A and the disk with a COPY of WS.COM in drive B.

COMPUTER RESPONSE	ENTER
A>	**INSTALL**
NORMAL FIRST TIME INSTALLATION (Y/N)	**N**
INSTALLATION MENU (A.B.C.D)	**B**
FILENAME TO BE INSTALLED	**B:WS.COM**
FILENAME FOR SAVING INSTALLED WORDSTAR	**B:HWS.COM**
TERMINAL MENU	**U** (or your choice)
OK (Y/N)	**Y**
PRINTER MENU	**U** (or your choice)
OK (Y/N)	**Y**
COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL MENU	**U** (or your choice)
OK (Y/N)	**Y**
DRIVER MENU	**U** (or your choice)
OK (Y/N)	**Y**
ARE MODIFICATIONS NOW COMPLETE? (Y/N)	**N**
LOCATION TO BE CHANGED (0=END)	**ITHELP:**
ADDRESS : 0360H OLD VALUE: 03H NEW VALUE:	**02**
LOCATION TO BE CHANGED (0=END)	**0**
CONFIRM TERMINAL AND PRINTER SELECTIONS:	
OK (Y/N)	**Y**

The INSTALL program will now save the new version of WordStar under the name HWS.COM. After checking this new version of WordStar, Mr. Green can delete WS.COM and rename the new version back to WS.COM by typing **REN WS.COM=HWS.COM**. Now when ever Mr. Green activates WS it will be initialized to HELP LEVEL 2. And, as Mr. Green said, it does make more sense (at least to an experienced WordStar user).

Bob Hamilton is a FOG member working for ARAMCO. He is based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

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HELP

(or That's Not a BUG it's a Feature)

By Bradley S. Albom

Welcome again to the ***FOGHORN*** Help column. This is the place to send your questions about your Osborne and any software you're using with it. To get your question(s) answered, send a letter of a page or less to:

Bradley S. Albom
c/o COMSOL
The Computer Solutions Company
P.O. Box 206
Pt. Richmond, Calif 94807

If you prefer the phone, you can also leave me a message at (415)-234-8346. I'd prefer it if you limited phone calls to quick answers for the problems brought up in the column. My time has become such that I simply cannot return all the calls I am getting. If someone else would like to volunteer to handle phone in problems, please contact me and I'll be sure to get your name and number out to our other users.

On your letters, remember, the lead time for this column is three months. If you can wait that long for an answer, fine. If you can't, include a SASE or post card with your mailed in questions.

Direct dBase II questions to:

Mr. Blake Mason
723 Old Country Road, Apt. N
Belmont, Calif 94002

Software Solutions

This month I got a corollary answer to that old problem of MBASIC mysteriously stopping in the middle of a program to do its house cleaning on strings. Roy Schera from Richmond, VA tells us that you can minimize the amount of house cleaning MBASIC will have to do if you make liberal use of the MID(...) function instead of reassigning strings. That is, when you create a string, MBASIC assigns it space out of its dynamic free space area. It will only allocate more space for the string if it starts growing beyond its original size or if you assign it to another variable. The MID function takes a string in place and replaces a section of it. This doesn't require any allocation of new space out of the dynMmic area and so doesn't leave behind unused string variables that will have to be cleaned up after. Naturally, some programs don't lend themselves to this approach, but if you know about it you just might find a use for this technique.

Jim Switz writes with some help for people trying to set up Okidata Microline Printers with their Osborne's. He credits the documentation to Stephen Hill from Cupertino. There are four pages of WordStar patches for the Osborne Executive although they might also be useful for the 01. If you want a quick copy, send me a SASE. Otherwise, Jim will be putting the documentation in the Executive FOG library in January which means it's probably already available to you.

I also have Douglas First's version of the Okidata 92 patches, although he didn't indicate whether they were for an 01 or an Executive. They do seem a little different, so it's quite possible I've got both versions. Now all I need is an Okidata printer.

Jim also says that he has his own Mannesmann Tally MT160 printer figured out and would be glad to provide help to others. If you're interested, write to him at 2435 Tamalpias St., Mountain View, Calif 94043. [*Also, see the MT160 review, this issue.*]

cont. on page 48

ARTICLES

C From the Top Down — Part 2

by Dave Ring

This is the second article of a four part series on programming in the C language. The first installment [cf89FOGHORN, FEB '84] presented the header section of the utility program SUPERSET, which led into a discussion of modules, macros and the C preprocessor. The present article will continue with the main() section of SUPERSET, and will describe how the core of the program interacts with the external environment and the program modules that accomplish particular functions.

In the last part, I mentioned that modules are used to break up a program into smaller sections that accomplish single tasks, and that have well defined inputs and outputs. An important aspect of this use of modules is to separate control from implementation. Usually most of the lines of code in a program are related to details of execution and relatively few to program control. If the details are swept up into modules and exiled from the main program, its bones are revealed and their articulation becomes clear.

In C, modules are functions and the main program is merely the highest or most central function, named main(). Just as other functions can be called with arguments that define their relationship to the calling program, main() can be called with arguments that link it to the operating system. The first job of the main() function in SUPERSET is to deal with these arguments, which appear (optionally) on the CP/M command line following the program name.

If command line arguments are expected, main() always has the form main(argc, argv). Argc (short for argument count) is an integer containing the number of arguments found on the command line when the program was invoked. Argv (short for argument vector?) is an array of pointers to the individual arguments, which are stored as strings. (For those not familiar with pointers, here is what happens. The command line, e.g. "SUPERSET KEY 1" is broken up into strings separated by white space: "SUPERSET", "KEY" and "1". Each string is stored at some location in memory and terminated with a 0 byte, which indicates the end of a string in C. The starting memory addresses of the strings are stored as the elements of the array argv and referred to as pointers.)

Under the name of main(), but outside the beginning brace, we see the declarations of the function arguments argc and argv. Then, just inside the brace we see the declarations of two variables c and s, which will be used internally by the main() function. Declarations of variables, arguments or functions serve to notify the compiler that the name being declared refers to a particular size and structure of data object. Using this information, the compiler will allot an appropriate amount of memory space to store the data and will also ensure that it is later processed in the right sized chunks.

C variables have three attributes called type, scope and storage class. Type refers to the size and structure of the number stored in a variable; types available in C are character, integer, unsigned integer, short integer, long integer, float, and double (double length float). The actual memory size of each type varies with the host computer. On the Osborne, C/80 has character (8 bit), integer and unsigned (16 bit), and as an option long and float (both 32 bit). C handles strings as arrays of characters, rather than a separate variable type. In the program we are examining, the first declaration "int argc;" says that argc is a 16 bit signed integer. The second declaration "char *argv;" says that the contents of "argv" is an 8 bit character; "argv" is thus a pointer to a character or array of characters, as indicated by the operator "*"

Scope refers to the part of a program in which a given variable is accessible. A variable declared outside any function including main() is available to any function in the source file — i.e. global. (There are no global variables in the SUPERSET program.) Variables declared inside a function are available only in that function. In full C, variables can also be declared for limited parts of a function called blocks, but this feature is not implemented in C/80. Scope restrictions allow common variable names (e.g. "i" for a loop counter) to be used repeatedly in different functions without actually referring to the same variable. If a variable name is used more than once, the most local version is always used. Local variables are an important factor in ensuring the independence of modules and avoiding side effects that can be difficult to trace.

The third attribute of a variable is its storage class. In many languages, the way a variable is actually stored is neither visible to the programmer nor subject to external control. In C, a variable may be declared automatic, static, register or external, and these designations will at least in theory affect whether the compiler stores them on the stack, in memory locations, in CPU registers, etc. In practice, such internal effects vary from one machine and implementation to another, but certain external effects can be relied on: Automatic variables disappear between uses of a function, while static variables retain their values until explicitly altered. The "external" designation indicates that the compiler must look for a declaration of the function somewhere outside of the current function or source file. Register variables should be faster than usual (although not all implementations achieve this), and their address cannot be taken since they supposedly represent machine registers.

The primary means of communication between modules in C is through variables passed as function arguments. When an ordinary variable representing a single value (i.e. not an array or a structure) is listed in the parentheses following a function name, then a copy of that variable's value is made available to the function. Note that this provides a degree of isolation of modules — the called function operates only on a copy of the data and the original variable in the calling function is not touched. (Of course, the calling function retains the option of modifying the original variable based on the value returned by the called function. The sequence "func(var)" sends only a copy of "var" to "func()", but the assignment "var = func(var);" gets back a value from "func()" and actually places it in the original "var".)

The function overlay() about 20 lines down in main() provides an example of some function arguments. The first argument, "argv[1]", is a string (actually a filename) stored as element 1 in the array "argv". The second argument, "KEYTABL", is a #defined macro containing the hexadecimal address at which function key definitions are stored in the Osborne BIOS. The third argument, "LIMIT — KEYTABL" contains two macros and evaluates to the length of the function key table in bytes. (This illustrates the fact that most C compilers will accept simple expressions of constants, which are evaluated at compile time.) The last argument, "rb" is a character string (short for "read binary") describing a mode for opening the filename contained in the first argument; the mode string is expected by a C/80 library function open(), which will be called by overlay() to open the file.

Since arrays and structures (collections of more than one kind of variable) tend to be much larger than simple variables, it would be expensive in memory to pass copies of such variables to a function. Instead, C passes the function a pointer to the location where the array or structure begins in memory, and this means that the function will act on the original data. There are also times when it would be inefficient for many different functions to act on their own separate copies of a simple variable. In that case, the variable can be made global by declaring it outside of any function. All functions will now

have access to it (although any function that uses the same name for a local variable will ignore the global version). Sharing of global variables is the secondary path for communication of modules in C, but it should be used with discretion, since one function using a global may change it in a way not expected by another function that uses it later.

Functions must also be able to communicate back to the point where they were called. At present, C functions can return only a single value, and if this value is not an integer, then the function must be declared as the appropriate variable type for the value it does return. If a function needs to return more than one value, two dodges exist. Either global variables can be used to hold some of the results, or results can be stored in an array or structure, and a corresponding pointer returned as the single function value. In the latter case, the calling module must then use the pointer and look for the expected results at appropriate offsets. Note that many functions return no value at all, or only a predetermined value to indicate success or failure. An example of such a function is "overlay()", which overlays the contents of a file onto memory, but returns nothing. (Pascal makes more of a distinction, calling routines that return values functions and those that don't procedures. Perhaps this is an example of C's preference for efficiency and terseness over formalism.) A more sophisticated version of overlay() might return a value (e.g. -1) as an error message to indicate that a file could not be opened or that an indicated memory location was out of range.

As examples of functions returning values, consider toupper() and inkey(), which are nested about 30 lines down in main(). Inkey() is named after the similar command in BASIC. It returns a single character entered at the console without echoing it on the console display. Toupper() is a standard C library function which accepts a character returned by inkey() and converts it to upper case (so that the following switch can deal only with upper case values).

So what is going on in main()? The first section checks for command line arguments. If argv[1] is "KEY", then main() looks at argv[2], which should be the name of a function key, and calls the module newkey() to reset that function key. Similarly, if argv[1] is "BOOT", main() calls setboot() to set a new boot command and syswrit() to record it on the diskette system tracks. If argv[1] is neither "KEY" nor "BOOT", then it is assumed to be a filename, and main() tries to load function key definitions from that file into memory.

If there were no command line arguments or if a file of key definitions was loaded, main() then calls showkeys() to display the current function key settings. The program then enters a "switch" (similar to a compound if statement) which gets a key entered by the user and performs the indicated action: newkey() if a key definition is to be entered; filekeys() if definitions are to be saved as a file; setboot() if the boot command is to be altered; syswrit() if the key definitions and boot command are to be saved to diskette system tracks; exit() if the program is to be terminated; or an error message if the key entered is not a valid command.

Some further C quirks in the section of code shown: The contents of the parenthesis following an "if" are evaluated and if true (or nonzero) the following statement (or statements enclosed by braces) are executed. About 10 lines down in main(), we see "if (!strcmp(argv[1], "KEY"))". The library function strcmp() compares the string in argv[1] with "KEY", returning zero if they are identical. The sign "!" indicates logical negation, so the expression becomes nonzero (and the following block is executed) if argv[1] does equal "KEY".

Similarly, the code in a "while" statement is executed so long as the expression in parentheses following "while" remains true or nonzero. Thus, the "while (1)" preceding the main switch forces an infinite loop, which is only ended when the user types "x" or "X" to call the function exit().

The third installment of this series will analyze those functions which form major program modules in SUPERSET. The fourth and final part will look at the lowest level functions, and show how C can easily be interfaced and expanded with assembly code.

MAIN() MODULE OF SUPERSET

```
main(argc, argv)
        int argc;
        char *argv[ ];
{
        int c;

/*      First, check for and handle command line arguments.  */

        if (argc > 1) {
                if (!strcmp(argv[1], ``KEY'')) {
                        c = argv[2][0];
                        newkey(c);
                        exit();
                }
                else if (!strcmp(argv[1], ``BOOT'')) {
                        setboot();
                        syswrit();
                        exit();
                }
                else overlay(argv[1], KEYTABL, LIMIT - KEYTABL, ``rb'');
        }

/*      Then, display current function key settings and menu    */

        showkeys();

/*      Now, respond to menu choice.  */

        while (1) {
                c = toupper(inkey());
                switch (c) {
                        case '0':
                        case '1':
                        case '2':
                        case '3':
                        case '4':
                        case '5':
                        case '6':
                        case '7':
                        case '8':
                        case '9':
                        case 'U':
                        case 'R':
                        case 'D':
                        case 'L':
                                newkey(c);  /* insert a new def  */
                                break;
                        case 'F':
                                filekeys();  /* save defs as file  */
                                break;
                        case 'B':
                                setboot();  /* change boot command  */
                                break;
                        case 'S':
                                syswrit();  /* save changes to disk  */
                                break;
                        case 'X':
                                exit();  /* return to CP/M  */
                        default:
                                PROMPT;
                                printf(``Key not definable: try again.'');
                }
                showkeys();
        }
}
```

* * * * * * *

A Data Entry System in MBasic

by John Gaudio

Remember last month we created a short program that prompted you for a name and phone number, and then created a file to be used with Mailmerge. Well here's an expanded version of that program.

```
10 WIDTH 128
20 REM COPYRIGHT (C) 1982-83 BY John Gaudio
30 REM MAY BE REPRODUCED FOR NON COMMERCIAL USE.
40 REM LAST UPDATE 11/04/83 @3:51 PM.
50 REM
60 REM ****************************************
70 REM STORE DATA FROM OLD LIST.LST TO TEMP
80 LET F=1
90 ON ERROR GOTO 810
100 OPEN ''I'',#1,''B:LIST.LST''
110 REM IF FILE EXISTS, WRITE IT TO ''TEMP''
120 OPEN ''O'', #2,''B:TEMP''
130 IF EOF (1) THEN 170
140 LINE INPUT #1, A$
150 PRINT #2, A$
160 GOTO 130
170 CLOSE #1
180 REM
190 REM ************************************
200 REM ADD ENTRIES TO NEW FILE
210 PRINT CHR$(26)
220 PRINT ''PLEASE ENTER THE INFORMATION REQUESTED.''
230 PRINT ''WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED JUST ENTER A RETURN''
240 PRINT ''FOR NAME.''
250 PRINT
260 LINE INPUT ''       NAME '': N$
270 IF N$='' '' THEN 700
280 LINE INPUT ''SALUTATION '': SAL$
290 LINE INPUT ''    ADDRESS '': SA$
300 LINE INPUT ''       CITY '': CITY$
310 LINE INPUT ''      STATE '': STATE$
320 LINE INPUT ''        ZIP '': Z$
330 LINE INPUT ''  PHONE(S) '': PHONE$
340 REM
350 REM ************************************
360 REM CHECK NEW ENTRIES FOR ACCURACY
370 PRINT
380 PRINT N$
390 PRINT SA$
400 PRINT CITY$;'', '':STATE$;''  ''Z$
410 PRINT
420 PRINT ''Dear '':SAL$
430 PRINT
440 PRINT ''PHONE(S) '';PHONE$
450 PRINT
460 PRINT
470 LINE INPUT ''IS THIS CORRECT? '': H$
480 IF H$=''N'' THEN 540
490 IF H$=''n'' THEN 540
500 IF H$=''y'' THEN 610
510 IF H$=''Y'' THEN 610
520 PRINT ''PLEASE ENTER A Y FOR YES OR AN N FOR NO.''
530 GOTO 470
540 PRINT CHR$(26)
550 PRINT ''DATA ABANDONED. RE-ENTER'';CHR$(7)
560 PRINT
570 GOTO 220
580 REM
590 REM ************************************
600 REM ENTER DATA ON FILE
610 PRINT CHR$(26)
620 PRINT ''DATA WILL BE ENTERED ON FILE''
630 PRINT
640 WRITE #2, N$,SAL$,SA$,CITY$,STATE$,Z$,PHONE$
650 PRINT
660 GOTO 220
670 REM
680 REM ************************************
690 REM DATA ENTRY COMPLETE, CLOSE & RENAME FILES
700 CLOSE
710 IF F=0 GOTO 750
720 ON ERROR GOTO 850
730 KILL ''B:LIST.BAK''
740 NAME ''B.LIST.LST'' AS ''B:LIST.BAK''
750 NAME ''B:TEMP'' AS ''B:LIST.LST''
760 GOTO 870
770 REM
780 REM ************************************
790 REM ERROR RECOVERY SECTION. IE FILES LIST.LST
800 REM OR LIST.BAK DID NOT EXIST
810 IF ERR()53 OR ERL()100 THEN 860
820 OPEN ''O'',#2,''B:TEMP''
830 LET F=0
840 RESUME 210
850 IF ERR = 53 THEN RESUME 740
860 PRINT ''ERROR '';ERR;'' IN LINE '';ERL
870 END
```

This program accepts name, salutation, address, city, state, zip, and phone, and creates a MailMerge compatible mailing list in a file called LIST.LST. It also maintains an old copy called LIST.BAK in much the same way that WordStar creates backup copies each time you modify a document. You'll notice that the program is broken up into 7 parts, so let's look at each of those parts and try to get a feel for what they do.

1) Lines 10-40 Set the screen width and provide general information in the form of REM or remark statements.

2) Lines 80-170 read the old data from LIST.LST and write it to the file TEMP. The error trapping is used here so that the program doesn't bomb the first time you use it, when there is no LIST.LST to start with.

3) In section three, lines 210 to 330, you're asked to enter the information for each person on your mailing list. It is also here that you tell the program you're finished entering data by entering "A RETURN FOR NAME."

4) Lines 370 to 570 display the data for you, give you the chance to accept or reject it. They also send you back to section 3 if you want to re-enter the data, or on to section 5 if you want to save the data you just entered.

5) Lines 610-660 write the information to the file TEMP, and send you back to section 3.

6) Lines 700-760 close the file TEMP, delete the old LIST.BAK file (if it existed), rename the old LIST.LST file as LIST.BAK, and rename the TEMP file as LIST.LST. Then section six takes you to the end of the program.

7) Lines 810-870 handle the anticipated errors, specifically trying to OPEN or KILL files that do not yet exist. This occurs the first two times you use the program. The first time there is neither a LIST.LST or a LIST.BAK to OPEN or KILL respectively. The second time there is no LIST.BAK to KILL. These special problems are handled by the error traps in this section, and program execution resumes at the appropriate line.

Now we'll look at the file handling in a little more detail. Notice in section 2 we OPEN the old version of LIST.LST for input, and a new file called TEMP for output. In line 140 we read a line from LIST.LST, and in line 150 we write that line to TEMP. This repeats until we've

⇨

read all the records from LIST.LST. When all have been read, the End Of File function,(EOF in line 130) is true, and we go to line 170, close the old LIST.LST, and proceed to section 3. It is by reading all the old information into the new file that you avoid the problem of deleting all the old information in a sequential file every time you open it for Output.

Sections 3 and 4 really have nothing to do with the files. Here you just enter and confirm the data for a given person. We'll discuss later in this article how you might modify these sections, and section 5 to customize this program to your requirements.

It's in section 5, line 640, that we actually write new information to the file TEMP. Quotation marks are placed around each item, and the items are separated by commas automatically because we chose the WRITE # statement. This line is the third item that has to be changed when you want to customize this program.

In section 6 you'll notice that it's possible to delete (KILL) a file from inside an Mbasic program, and also that you can reNAME files from inside the program. See lines 730-750.

By now you can see that we really haven't done much more with the files than we did in the previous article, but by putting the same statements into a data entry program, it's possible for us to use those files to solve a very practical problem. Normally you'd put this program on a disk with Mbasic, and put that disk in the A drive. Then put a blank formatted disk in drive B and run the program. I call it NEWNAMES, but you can call it whatever you want. Load Mbasic and run NEWNAMES. It's really quite self explanatory, asking you for the name, salutation, address, city, state, zip, and phone number(s) of each person you want on your mailing list. It then creates the file LIST.LST, one line of which might look something like this.

```
''John Gaudio'', ''John'', ''Box 27826'', ''Denver'', ''CO'', ''80226'', ''(303) 934-1407''
```

To use such a file in Mailmerge you'll need the statements:

```
.DF LIST.LST
.RV NAME,SAL,ADDR,CITY,STATE,ZIP,PHONE
```

If you want to modify this program, you must make three changes in the program and one in the WordStar Mailmerge file. Say you want to add COMPANY to your list of items. You would:

1) Add a line, say 285, patterned after those above and below it. Consider something like:

```
285 LINE INPUT '' COMPANY '': COM$
```

2) Add a line, perhaps 385, to display the company name for review. It might read:

```
385 PRINT $COM
```

3) Modify line 64, the statement that writes information to the disk, to include your new variable, in this case COM$. The new line might be something like:

```
640 WRITE #2, N$, SAL$, COM$, SA$, CITY$, STATE$, ZIP$, PHONE$
```

4) Finally the .RV statement in the WordStar Mailmerge document must be changed as well. It's extremely important that the order of the variables in line 640 be identical to the order of the variables in the .RV statement, and that none of them be left out. You can, of course, use different sets of names in the two statements however. The .RV statement that goes with the version of line 640 above might read:

```
.RV NAME, SAL, COMPANY, ADDR, CITY, STATE, ZIP, PHONE
```

I have sent this program to both the FOG and DOG libraries, and suspect that it will fall under the APPLICATIONS section. The program name will be NEWNAMES.BAS, and this article will serve as documentation, probably under the title NEWNAMES.DOC. I think you'll find using it to be much easier than creating Mailmerge data files by hand, and I hope you'll learn a few tricks about file handling, data entry, and error trapping by looking more closely at the program. Above all though, I hope you'll enjoy it!

For information on how to join the Denver Osborne Group, write to P. O. Box 27826, Denver, CO 80227 or see the **CALENDAR** *in the centerfold of this issue*

* * * * * * *

Self-Publishing on an Osborne

by Margaret Regis

Nearly everyone has heard about how wordprocessors can help you increase your efficiency (and fame) as a writer. But did you know your computer can also help you publish what you write? Your Osborne can assist you with just about every aspect of publishing — from the idea to the finished book.

In the past year I've learned all about self-publishing on an Osborne while writing my latest book: *OSDEX, A Comprehensive Index to the Osborne 1 User's Manual.* My experience in publishing turned into quite an odyssey. I went from the idea to the written text, to the typesetter, printer, and finally right into the business (and I repeat business!) of publishing.

In the process, I found there is a great deal of writing/publishing related software available for the Osborne.

WORD PROCESSING

Wordprocessing is of course the first step in any computer written book. You need to take your "idea" and turn it into words. WordStar serves well for this process. The ^KB, ^KK, ^KV mark and move block commands let you enter thoughts in a random fashion and organize them later.

Once you have your initial text in, you can revise easily with WordStar by deleting, adding new sections, and copying blocks. Being able to make revisions quickly is a real advantage. On *OSDEX* I had nearly 15 revisions before the book ever reached the printer.

SORT PROGRAMS

WordStar is basic for writing a book on the Osborne. But there are also various support packages that can make your work easier. Sort programs such as Supersort or EZSORT can help you: alphabetize lists, sort an index, or arrange a bibliography.

Since *OSDEX* contains a large index, I relied heavily on a sort program. Of the programs I tried I liked EZSORT the best because it let me enter my data in WordStar D (document) mode, use commas in my text, and did not require a fixed record length.

SPELLING CHECKERS

Spelling checkers such as Spellguard and SPELLM21 are better than an editor for catching typos and chronically misspelled words. I thought I was an ace speller until I used Spellguard on my files. A lot of words that looked right to me, turned out to be incorrect. It can be an enlightening process. And it may even turn you into a better speller! (I know I finally learned how to spell the word "occurred.")

GRAMMAR CHECKERS

Grammar checkers such as Grammatik are another kind of software that can help you with your writing. Although good writing structure is often a subjective commodity, a grammar program can point out areas where your text is wordy or incorrectly structured, and offer solutions.

Grammar checkers are especially good if you feel a little shaky about your ability as a writer. But even with seasoned writers, a grammar package will often turn up unexpected mistakes.

TYPESETTING

Once you've finished the process of writing and revising (and revising and revising) your text, you're ready to go to the typesetter. There are two ways to approach typesetting, and in both, your Osborne can save you a lot of money.

The first way is to "typeset" your work on a good letter quality printer with proportional spacing. I know several publishers who use this method. This is the cheapest way to go and produces relatively

cont. on page 18

good material, but it is not as clean or professional as going to a regular typesetter.

Nowadays more and more typesetters are able to interface with the Osborne. Transferring data directly from your computer to the typesetter's can cut your costs by 10-50% and help increase the accuracy of your work. (The text isn't rekeyed. The typesetter uses exactly what you have entered.)

You can link up with a typesetter via modem or disk. In the case of *OSDEX*, we actually took an Osborne into the typesetter's office and used PIP to transfer the data. (Other programs that work with some typesetters are LYNC and MODEM7.)

The price you pay depends on how many of the typesetter's codes you are willing to enter yourself. Typesetting codes are easy to learn. They instruct the computer when to change typeface and point size.

PUBLISHING

When you've got your text all typeset and off to a printer, your book is just about complete. But your work as a publisher is just beginning! Publishing is a business and requires the time and energy you would put into any venture. Once again, your Osborne is a great asset. It can help you market your book: keeping track of distributors and other contacts, generating mailing lists. It can help with advertising: producing news releases, promotional copy. And it can do your accounting.

In short, the Osborne can assist in every stage of book production. Writing and publishing any book remains a difficult task. But the Osborne is simplifying that task and opening the entire production process to a new class of publishers: computer users like you and me.

* * * * * * *

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John Gaudio is an electrical engineer holding two U.S. Patents on computer systems. He's been a consultant to Osborne Computer Corporation and has written several articles for their magazine, The Portable Companion. He continues to write regularly for the newsletters of the First Osborne Group and the Denver Osborne Group, and has spent the last two years helping people to get more from their Osborne Computers.
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The Day After Christmas

by Ronald D. Schaefer

'Twas the day after Christmas and all through our place,
The kids were playing computer games. It looked like outer space.

With Zaxxon, and Pac-Man, and Q-Bert, and Racing,
The house was a shambles, And I started pacing.

Then out of the corner of my blood-shot eye,
I saw my old Ozzie. He looked ready to cry.

His case was all tarnished. He looked like a mess.
He was never really pretty — even at his best.

Recently orphaned, ashamed and disgraced,
He needed something to brighten his 5-inch face.

Away to my dealer I flew like a flash;
Threw my car in reverse, and ran over the trash.

As I pulled to the curb and stepped into the store,
I saw Apples and Compaq's and IBM-compatibles galore.

Not a single new Osborne; O-1 or Exec.
When I mentioned the name the dealer jerked his neck.

From the back of the store he came running with a trunk.
He opened it and said, "I've gotta get rid of this junk."

The box was stuffed with Ozzie software;
A box of delights for Ozzie owners anywhere.

With Grammatik and SpellGuard, DataStar and Forth;
"Just make me an offer. What do you think it's worth?"

The prices were right. What more could I do?
I loaded my arms with more than a few.

AmCall and Disk Doctor, and before I was through;
80-column Screen Pac and Double Density too!

I packed up my car, drove back to my home.
Ozzie was in the corner forlorn and alone.

I opened his case. To a disk gave a boot,
And watched Ozzie light up as he examined the loot.

With disk drives all humming and double density force,
His new 80 columns were beautiful, of course.

80 columns of WordStar displayed with ease.
And with 104 columns, SuperCalc was a breeze.

More rapid than Eagles the bits and bytes flew,
And he whirred and he clattered and computed in base 2.

Now Datebook, now Numath, Now Milestone, too.
On dBase, on Documate, and SuperCalc 2.

Spelling errors corrected, my grammar was checked.
My writing's improved. It's no longer a wreck.

The mysteries of Forth, The power of Pearl,
This new Osborne software makes computing a whirl.

A renewal to FOG was the last thing to do.
I'm ready for the New Year. How about you?

And I watched Oz exclaim ere the words scrolled out of sight,
"Who needs a new system? This Ozzie still works just right!"

This poem was originally printed in ***Ok Chips*** *of OKLOG... Ron is co-editor! Oklahoma Local Osborne Group is an Affiliated Member Organization. For information on joining this group, contact Glenda Wilson, 200 NW 87th, Oklahoma City, OK 73114 or check the* **CALENDAR** *in the centerfold of this issue.*

* * * * * * *

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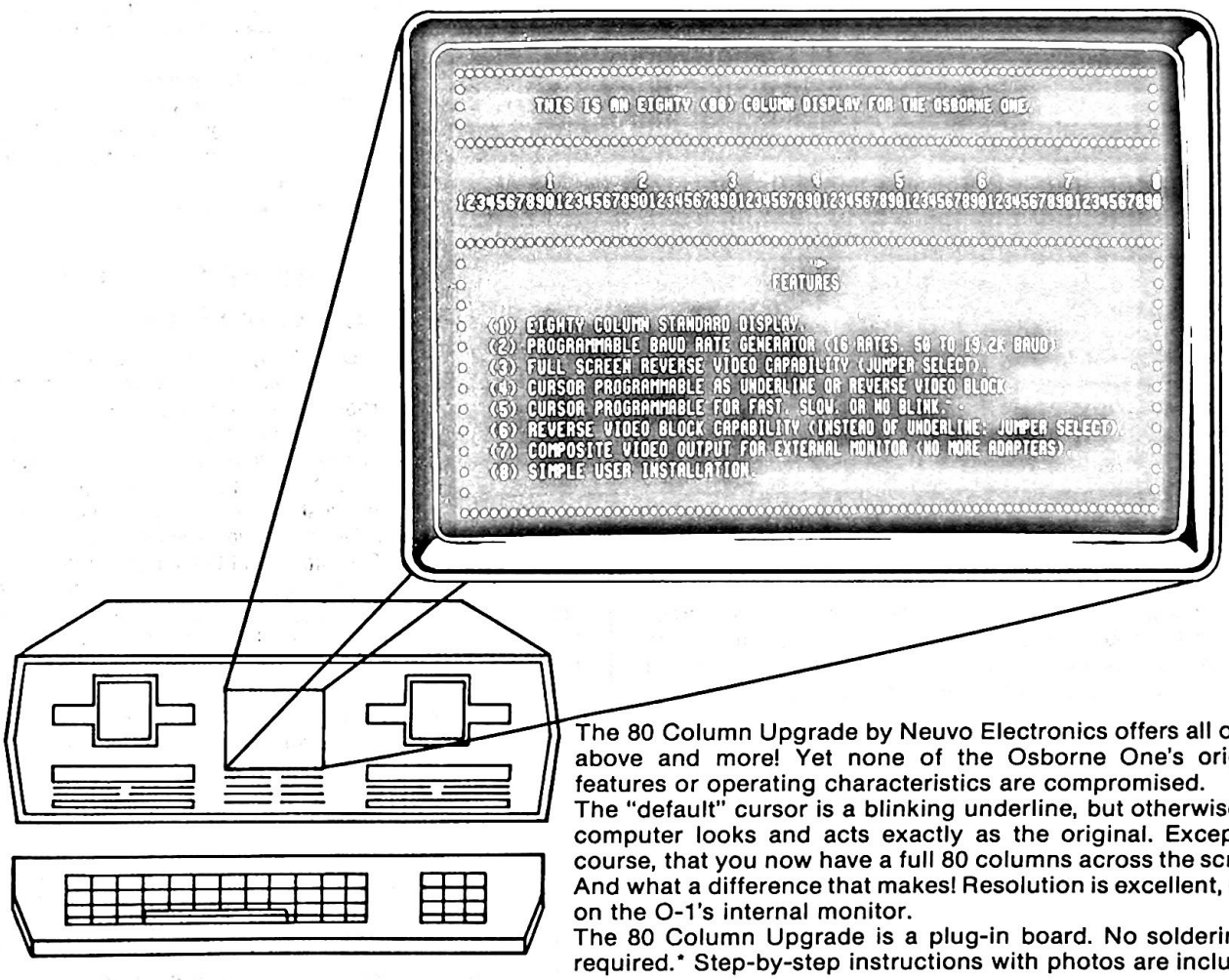
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BOOK REVIEWS

*Last month we had a book review of Margaret Regis' **OSDEX. A Comprehensive Index to the Osborne 1 User's Manual**. This month we have two reviews of the same book, **Proportional Spacing on WordStar**, from Writing Consultants, 11 Creek Bend Drive, Fairport, New York 14450.*

Proportional Spacing on WordStar

Review by Randy Shafer

Recently I saw an ad that said "You are reading text printed by WordStar in proportional spacing, providing a professional, easy to read, typeset appearance." Reading further, the ad offered a book that promised to unlock the deep, dark secrets of WordStar's undocumented proportional spacing feature. Being a daisy wheel printer owner, I immediately dug deep for the $20 price tag (including shipping) and sent off for the book.

The book arrived about three weeks later. I caught myself thinking that the book looked a little thin for $20, but that idea fell away quickly. *Proportional Spacing on WordStar* meets and exceeds all of its claims, and is one of those rare "how-to" books that is worth far more than it costs.

The author is identified only as "Writing Consultants" (also the publisher) and has obviously used WordStar heavily in commercial situations for an extensive period of time. Well written and easy to follow, the text has few typographical errors, though the mediocre printing quality detracts from the overall impression of the book. The most important thing about this book, however, is the experience and expertise the author demonstrates. I used the detailed procedures to install a corrected proportional spacing table in WordStar 3.3 (Osborne Executive) and WordStar 3.20 (IBM PC). Because of the way proportional spacing works in WordStar, several commands must be used in conjunction with the main command to turn on proportional spacing, CTRL P P. When directions are followed, WordStar turns out beautiful proportionally spaced text on my Diablo 620 printer.

Just as valuable are tips on how to get lines of all capital letters, such as those used in titles, to print properly under proportional spacing. Also included — how to get different "pitches" or character spacing, alignment of columns of numbers with proportional, and using the reverse line feed feature that most daisy wheel printers possess to print multiple columns of fully justified text. (No more cut and paste!)

Proportional spacing tables are included for Diablo and Xerox metal proportional wheels, Diablo plastic wheels, Qume WPS and WS wheels, and NEC thimbles. The following printers are covered:

C. Itoh F-10 Starwriter and Printmaster

Diablo - 620
630
1650

Qume-Sprint 5
Sprint 9
Sprint 11

NEC-Spinwriter 7700
Spinwriter 3500
Spinwriter 5500 (Incompatible with WordStar-generated proportional spacing)

Other printers that emulate one of the above printers (except the NEC Spinwriter 5500) should work as well.

Actual printouts of install sessions on WordStar 2.26 and 3.3 are included to help novices get through the process. One important question of my own was answered in the install procedure for WordStar 3.3. The WINSTALL program has been improved and made much more friendly, but individual patch areas are not accessible as in previous releases of WINSTALL, or so I thought. The book says to enter a plus sign for an option from the main menu for access to individual addresses and patch areas. I found this undocumented feature worked quite well and allowed me access to the USRx: patch areas and individual labeled patches.

For those of you with the above listed printers, I highly recommend this book. It is well worth the $20 and will fill one of WordStars few shortcomings — the lack of proportional spacing. All of the tips in the book work and many interesting tricks and tips from a professional WordStar user are shared.

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Proportional Spacing on WordStar

Review by Benjamin H. Cohen

In the October issue of the ***FOGHORN***, there was an article by Mark Zimmer about proportional spacing with WordStar. It was there I learned for the first time that an embedded CTRL-P in a WordStar document would invoke proportional spacing. This feature is not supported by MicroPro, but a rough sort of proportional spacing is enabled by this means. Just before I got the October issue of the ***FOGHORN*** I saw an ad for "Proportional Spacing on WordStar", for $20.00 from Writing Consultants, 11 Creek Bend Drive, Fairport, NY 14450. I had sent off for the information already when the ***FOGHORN*** article appeared, and I was ready to kick myself — here I've spent twenty bucks and they are probably going to send me one sheet of paper to tell me to embed a CTRL-P in my WordStar text.

A few weeks later an 8.5 x 11 inch, perfect bound, book, *Proportional Spacing on WordStar*, arrived in my mail box; 31 pages of main text, together with about 45 pages of addenda. There is, it turns out, a lot more to be said about proportional spacing with WordStar than the embedding of a CTRL-P in the text, and there are some other tricks in the book, too, such as how to produce text in two or three columns with one pass through your printer, without WordStar 3.0, or later, which has Column Move and allows you to do this with ease.

The reason that MicroPro considers WordStar's proportional spacing feature to be experimental, the author (unnamed) of ***Proportional Spacing on WordStar*** reports, is because the table in WordStar for the width of the characters and symbols is not very good. First, the table doesn't match the spacing increments needed for Diablo or Xerox metal or plastic PS printwheels. Second, the metal print wheels call for a table with a scale from 2 to 8 units, but WordStar is able to handle only a scale from 2 to 7 units. The book gives you sets of values for not only the Diablo/Xerox plastic and metal, but also for NEC Spinwriter thimbles, and Qume plastic printwheels. Specific instructions are given for Diablo 620 and 630, Qume Sprint 5, 9, and 11, C. Itoh, and NEC Spinwriter printers. In addition, the book tells you how and where to patch your (extra) working copy of WordStar even including sample installation sessions for those who have never run through the WordStar INSTALL procedure.

Using proportional spacing, as patched in accordance with *Proportional Spacing*, on WordStar gives a more pleasing appearance to your proportionally spaced text than is available from WordStar without patching. But you are still getting something a bit less than true proportional spacing. The number of characters on a line is just what your non-proportionally spaced screen displays, there is no adjustment for lines with lots of short or wide characters. (The book gives suggestions on how to deal with lines of all caps, but

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including two or three words of all caps in the middle of a line of text requires a bit more manipulation than most people will want for everyday correspondence and memos.) With true proportional spacing, the line spacing would come out differently — as well as looking better. If your screen doesn't display proportionally spaced text, you will have to print out the text once to find out where to put page breaks, since a line of text on the paper may end in the middle of a line as it is displayed on the screen.

If you want true proportional spacing you might want to get MagicPrint by Computer EdiType Systems (reviewed in ***Lifelines/The Software Magazine***, November 1983, page 16) priced at $195. The review indicates that a new version of MagicPrint is to have an on-screen preview feature. MagicPrint also has other features, including footnote handling.

My printer is a Transtar 130 — essentially similar to Silver Reed EXP 550, a model which seems to be available under a number of other labels as well. The print wheels seem to agree well with the Diablo Plastic values in the book, though the result is perhaps a bit less than ideal. But if the appearance of the proportional spacing, as provided with (but not supported by) WordStar and patched in accordance with the tables provided in *Proportional Spacing on WordStar* is not ideal, it is quite good, certainly worth the cost of the book.

A four page index was included with the book, though it was a loose stapled 'supplement' rather than being bound in.

I found a few questions which I forwarded to Writing Consultants. I was pleased to receive a prompt and courteous reply (though they could have simply pointed to the place in the book where the answer to my question could have been found if I had read carefully). They also sent me a copy of the revised version of the book. It has a white cover instead of a blue one, and the index is bound in with the text. A quick glance through the two editions does not make any changes readily apparent.

If you are using a daisy wheel printer that has proportional spacing capability, you'll find the investment of $20 in this book is well worth while -- watch out, though, you'll find proportional space print wheels an additional expense!

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Quicksaving Supercalc2

One of the many enhancements that SuperCalc2 gives the spreadsheet user is that hitting the escape key enters the name of the last file loaded.

Since one of the most commonly used functions is SAVE(ing) the last file loaded (you ought to do it frequently to be sure you don't lose data), you may want to program a special-function key as a "save" key. The save key on my SC2 disks runs this sequence: /S<ESC>oa. Avoiding the necessity of typing in the file name and drive specifier speeds up the saving process considerably.

— Benjamin H. Cohen

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HARDWARE REVIEWS

MD20, The Hard Disk

by Michael J. Winter

Well, I took the plunge. The real estate application programs that I wrote in dBASE II were on three floppies and I just got fed up with flipping floppies. I decided that even though my corporation (actually, I'm just a part owner) is still trying to turn the corner on profitability, we could afford a hard disk to speed up our computer operations. We have two Osborne 1's. About six months ago I sent an inquiry in response to their ad — I think it was in the ***Portable Companion***, and MEGA-BYTE responded immediately with a six or seven page letter describing how their hard disk interfaced with the Osborne.

I've also seen the Trantor ads, but I went with Mega-Byte for the following reasons. Most important—was price. Trantor is currently advertising their 15MB at $3495. Mega-Byte was at $3030 (including shipping) for a 20MB unit. There were other considerations as well. The Trantor connects to the IEEE port, which is where my printer is connected — although I don't know if they make any substitute provisions available for the IEEE port. The unit Mega-Byte sells requires disassembly of the Osborne and removal of the Z80 chip. The interface then plugs in where the Z80 was, and the Z80 chip is then plugged into a ready socket on the interface board. I reasoned that this probably would provide much faster disk accesses. Mega-Byte promises that networking capabilities will be available for their hard disk within the next month, which means that several micros can then be connected to the hard disk all at the same time. They are currently quoting a price for the networking capability of $1300 for the first computer and about $300 for each additional computer, and the computers can be of different types — even the IBM PC is supposed to be supported. One other factor — streaming tape back up is soon to be available from Mega-Byte for approximately $1300. I haven't seen any information from Trantor regarding networking or streaming tape backup.

So on July 6, 1983 I phoned JR Garfield at Mega-Byte in Utah to confirm that he had a unit in stock ready to ship. He was most helpful and friendly. I had some questions particularly about how difficult it was going to be to take my Osborne apart and install the interface. I'm reasonably talented with a screw driver, but not the kind of guy who ever built any electronic kits. After a phone conversation that ran to a half hour I mailed out the check. On Saturday, July 9, I phoned to see if they received my check and was told that they did, and that the hard disk would be shipped the following Monday. It arrived Tuesday, July 19.

I cleared everything off my messy desk, disconnected the keyboard, printer and modem from Ozzie, and started work about 2 PM. I removed the blue front panel first (take off the brightness and contrast knobs, then remove six screws), and then turned it upside down and removed several screws to get the bottom off. The next thing is to locate the right chip. Sounds easy, but apparently Osborne has been using chips from several different manufacturers, and has used slightly different locations on the main board for the chip, depending on when the machine was assembled. It took me about fifteen minutes, before I was sure that I had located the right component. Then gently, I pried it out, first noting its orientation to be able to identify pin 1 so that I could then insert into it's new home on the small interface board supplied with the hard disk. Next, I connected the short ribbon cable to the main board, where the chip was removed.

Before beginning reassembly or even connecting to the hard disk I plugged in my keyboard and powered up the computer to be sure that everything was right. Even with this new arrangement the Ozzie is supposed to function just the way it always did, when the Hard Disk is not in use. It booted up just fine. Wow! Only one hour, and I was ready to go. WRONG! Now to reassemble. Not so easy. The fifty conductor ribbon cable which is about 2.5 inches wide must be routed from approximately the center of the case to the back of the case and out of the power pocket area. There just isn't a lot of maneuvering room, and it took me almost another hour of trying it different ways to get it right, and then get everything all put back together.

The hard disk came with a manual and a 10 page supplement specifically regarding the Osborne. Installation instructions needed to be retrieved sometimes alternately from both documents — adding a little to the confusion. However, the instructions were fairly straight forward and I rate the installation support A, because when I did have a question for Mega-Byte that afternoon, my call was returned promptly by Mr. Garfield who had the right answer.

The name on my hard disk is MEDIA DISTRIBUTING MD20, not Mega-Byte. The reason I chose to install the interface myself, was that I just couldn't tie my computer up at the local dealer's service shop, not even for a day. I'm told that they should do it for around $50, but I did not call for a quotation.

What a pleasure. It works even better than I anticipated. WordStar file saves are accomplished in about 10-20% the time it used to take with floppies. My unofficial and not scientific evaluation is that dBASE II operates five to ten times faster. Pack operations that took minutes with floppies, now take seconds. Command and data files are opened and closed very quickly. And best of all, NO BAD SECTOR ERRORS. That's a biggie because dBASE seems to be very sensitive to bad sector errors. Mega-Byte also included POWER as a bonus with the purchase of the hard disk, and I do like it, but mostly just use its convenient copy function. It also allows password protected access to user areas 16-30, but I haven't implemented that feature.

It's a breeze to get it operational every morning. First I turn Ozzie and the printer on. Next turn the power switch on the hard disk on. Then I insert a diskette which has been sysgen'ed with CP/M and which has the file HARD.COM which came with the hard disk. I press RETURN and then get the CP/M A> prompt. I then type HARD and press RETURN, receive a short sign on message and within 2 or 3 seconds get A0> which means that I am now in user area 0 on the A drive of the hard disk. The floppy drives that were A and B before now are D and E, and the hard disk is now drives A, B and C, each with about 7MB. I have noted however, that minimum file size is 4K. That means if you have a lot of small files, a lot of space is being wasted. I really don't think that my decision to go with this particular model would have been any different, if I had known in front, but I was disappointed that it was not mentioned anywhere in the detailed sales material that was sent to me a few months ago.

Even though I do not use my Osborne continually, all day long I do leave it on until I go home every evening. The second day of use, I came back from lunch to find that it crashed to ROM (screen display — insert CP/M diskette in Drive A and press RETURN). A quick call to Utah and we determined the problem was due to excessive heat build up. Additional components and cable inside were probably restricting air flow at crucial areas, just enough to cause a chip to fail. I immediately arranged to have a fellow user group member install fans in both my Osborne's ($35 each) and subsequently had no more problems.

So far I have only about 2MB on the hard disk, but already, backup is a bit of a pain. I maintain 2 sets of about 20 double density diskettes for backup. One set I keep at home, and bring into the office about once or twice a week. The other set I keep in a fireproof file cabinet here in the office. When backing up I selectively copy only data and dBASE command files which have been changed in the preceding few days. It's not unusual to spend two or three hours a week on back-up housekeeping and it's not something I look forward

to. That's why I'm anxious to purchase the streaming tape backup, which will allow me to copy all the contents of the hard disk onto one magnetic tape in one fell swoop, and then more importantly, should the disk ever crash, to read the tape back into the hard disk all at one time.

Over all, I'm really happy with the purchase and do recommend it to you frustrated floppy operators out there. My phone is (313) 552 9590 — I live in the Detroit, Michigan area, if you'd like any further information.

[*Judging from the dates above, Mr. Winter did his shopping some time ago. Prices and available options may have changed alot since then, for all manufacturers. If you're interested in a hard disk storage system (and networking) be sure to query all manufactures on the availability of the latest goodies and prices. David*]

* * * * * * *

SuperCalc / WordStar Templates

by Randy Shafer

Even though I have been a WordStar user for several years now, I frequently have to refer to the manual for some of the more iightly used control codes. Recently I discovered a product that has increased my WordStar productivity and reduced the trips back to the manual. I am referring to a handy set of keyboard templates for WordStar and SuperCalc manufactured by Detective Security Corporation of Union Lake, Michigan.

For a cost of $19.95, two separate templates are included, containing nearly all of the WordStar and SuperCalc commands. They are printed on a very tough and flexible plastic, and are thin enough to be stacked on the keyboard, which can be closed with the templates in place. The lettering appears to be bonded right to the plastic — several months of extremely hard use has not "worn out" or degraded in any way the letters on the lower part of the template where the hands rest when typing.

The templates have been very helpful at saving trips back to the manual for me, and have really been a life saver for a friend who is a new user learning WordStar and SuperCalc. I can recommend for all WordStar and SuperCalc users.

PRODUCT INFORMATION
Product Name: WordStar / SuperCalc Template Set
Cost: $19.95 + $1.50 S&H
Supplier: Detective Security & Alarm Corp.
FAST-KEY Computer Products Div.
723 Sherbrooke Dr.
Union Lake, MI 48085

[*If you order, maybe you should mention which Osborne you have; Tan or Blue (O-1 or Executive ?). David*]

* * * * * * *

Mannesmann Tally MT160L Printer

by Kenzel P. Manning

When perusing the vast multitude of printer advertisements, while searching for a mate for the Osborne 1, my eye caught the ad for the MT160L. It seemed to be an ideal combination for the requirements at hand. Its manufacturer is a proven domestic supplier of commercial EDP equipment. The sample of correspondence-quality printing looked acceptable, and the speeds of 160 cps DP, 40 cps correspondence quality were competitive. The final clincher was the 100-million character life between rebuilds of the print head. Since I do a lot of printing, this feature would bring down the operating costs significantly.

With the foregoing all positive, I took a deep breath and placed an order. Since the manufacturer stated it was extremely flexible interface-wise and Osborne said the same about their computer there obviously would be no problem here and I would be able to buy an interface cable and be in immediate operation. This was a naive assumption, but in time things worked out all right. Errors existed in both the Osborne and Tally manuals at something as fundamental as interface pin assignments. From here in Alaska at the time, I could find no one who had interfaced these two devices. Neither Osborne or Tally knew of anyone then who had. So it was a neophyte on his own again, hardly a unique situation these days, although, I must confess, there were moments when I wished the purchase had been an Epson.

Although I'd liked to have gone with the parallel interface, I chose the serial route to expedite getting into operation since I had been able to verify the Osborne's RS232 output with a borrowed teletype printer terminal. Hopefully by now, Mannesmann Tally has all the details worked out for the parallel interface, but I have been happy enough with the serial to have continued using it once it was understood and working.

SERIAL INTERFACING — MT160L TO THE OS 1

Step 1 Customize a cable. You won't need a fully populated one, only four wires plus the shield. Table 1 defines the cable and plug signal names.

TABLE 1. RS232 Interconnections between OS-1 and MT160L printer

OS 1			MT 160L	
pin	signal name		pin	signal name
1	ground	TO(shield)	1	CHASSIS GND
2	TX DATA	FROM	2	XMIT DATA
3	RX DATA	TO	3	RECEIVE DATA
7	ground	TO	7	SIGNAL GND
20	DTR	FROM	11	BUSY

Since Osborne didn't differentiate between signal and chassis grounds, I first used only one ground wire with pins 1 and 7 at the printer interface jumpered. DON'T DO IT THAT WAY UNLESS YOU WANT WEIRD MODE CHANGING! Wiring as shown has exhibited absolutely no crosstalk problems. Note that the OS-1's DTR is driven from MT160L's BUSY. Busy's polarity is software switchable in the printer. Consequently BUSY becomes a suitable term for requesting data.

Step 2. Set the parameters in the printer. This is a very straight-forward operation. It is performed off line in a conversational mode with the printer asking you questions via its printout and you responding by punching a yes or no key. The factors which are pertinent to the interface are listed in Table 2. With the parameters of Table 2 punched in, you are now ready for the third step. (There are numerous other parameters to be set, but these are the only parameters involving the interface which are set in the printer off line.

Step 3. Configure the OS 1 for STANDARD SERIAL and 1200 BAUD using the SETUP program as described in the USER'S MANUAL on pages 41 to 43.

Step 4. Modify WordStar. The MT 160L is packed with computercontrollable options, many more than what WordStar normally handles. For those of you who need all these features probably SMART KEY/SMART PRINT would be a worthy program addition from your friendly FOG merchandise counter [*See inside back cover for details*]. At the time of the interfacing effort, these programs were unknown to me. Accordingly, I used all but one of the available functions (leaving one for future use should it later be needed) as listed on pages A-10 and A-11 of the ***OSBORNE USER REFERENCE GUIDE***. Then it is necessary to follow the instructions in the guide for inserting the selected MT160L codes. The latter are stated in ASCII form in the MT160 COMPUTER PRINTER OPERATOR'S MANUAL pages 4-9 and 6-2. Table 3 combines the information from the two manuals and converts the printer ASCII codes to HEX codes for the functions I implemented. After you have come to the last option in the INSTALL.COM program, you simply enter the WordStar function name as the address and proceed to punch in the HEX codes — just a short job if you are careful.

cont. on page 24

TABLE 2. MT160L Parameters as set to be compatible with OS-1

CR IMPLIES LINE FEED	NO
LF AT FULL LINE	NO
POPC	NO
AUX CODE SET	NO
INTERFACE TYPE	SERIAL
BAUD	1200
NO. DATA BITS	8
NO. STOP BITS	2
PARITY	NONE
BUSY	LOW
PROTOCOL	NO

TABLE 3. MT160L Printing functions, WordStar addresses, and controls

Desired Function (Note 1)	ASCII Code (Note 2)	HEX Code (Note 3)	WordStar Name (Note 4)	Print Control Character (Note 5)
Data processing mode	ESC [0y	04.1B.5B.30.79	USR1:	^PQ
5 CPI dp	ESC [0w	04.1B.5B.30.77	USR3:	^PE
10 CPI dp.	ESC [4w	04.1B.5B.34.77	PALT:	^PA
12 CPI dp.	ESC [5w	04.1B.5B.35.77	PSTD:	^PN
16.7CPI dp.	ESC [6w	04.1B.5B.36.77	ROLUP:	^PT
20 CPI dp.	ESC [7w	04.1B.5B.37.77	ROLDOW:	^PV
Word processing mode.	ESC [1y	04.1B.5B.31.79	USR2:	^PW
Initialize in wp with	ESC [0y	09.1B.5B.31.79	PSINIT:	n/a
12 CPI wp	ESC [5y	1B.5B.35.79		
120 COL MAX	ESC [:120s	1B.5B.3B.31. 32.30.73		
and CR.		0D		
10 CPI wp.	ESC [4y	04.1B.5B.34.79	USR4:	^PR
Line Spacing				
8 LPI	ESC [4z	04.1B.5B.34.7A	RIBBON:	^PY
6 LPI.	ESC [3z	04.1B.5B.33.7A	RIBOFF:	^PY
Unspecified Function			PBACKS:	^PH

Note 1. You will have to decide from the available functions in the printer manual just which ones you want. I was more interested in printing sizes than in the ability to handle subscripts and superscripts. If you need the latter, you'll delete three of the selected functions to use for your subscripts and superscripts.

Note 2. The space between ESC and [must NOT be entered, it was placed to more clearly show that ESC is a single ASCII character.

Note 3. This is the data you enter while running the INSTALL program.

Note 4. Defines function and is also directly useable as an address for entering the HEX data in INSTALL.COM program. Observe how the printer is initialized in the 12 CPI Word processing mode. I have found that it hasn't been inconvenient because personal requirements haven't called for switching between dp and wp or between 10 CPI and 12 CPI in the same printout. Another possibility is sacrificing the explicit wp command in favor of an explicit 12 CPI command.

Note 5. The print control character used for line density selection alternates between 8 and 6 lines per inch. I always command the printer back to the 6 lines per inch mode whenever use of 8 LPI in a program is completed. There are two reasons for this, one is to keep from having to command 6 LPI, my most common line-spacing mode, and the other is to provide for automatic resynchronization by simply rerunning the program should an unlikely power failure or other abort occur.

EVALUATION

The MT160L printer has performed flawlessly from both the electrical/electronic and mechanical stand points. For me, these points outweigh the negative one's I'm about to mention.

I would like to see a much more complete operator's manual; the one provided hardly meets the needs of a first-time printer owner. If manufacturer's would spend more effort in this department, they would have lots happier customers, dealers, and factory customer's representatives. As it is, the manufacturer's seem to put the pressure on the dealers to provide information that if they can provide at all, could have gained it only through experience or from more conscientious companies they also might represent. I don't want to beat a dead horse, but as an example, one can see the not too subtle change in emphasis between Osborne's earlier books and the ***OSBORNE 1 USER'S REFERENCE GUIDE***.

The MT160L performs its primary function of putting characters on paper best. The secondary functions of loading paper, handling single sheets and printing on envelopes leave something to be desired.

Loading paper, for example, requires that the paper be held against the platen with a finger being careful to keep it out of the ribbon, while the paper-advance knob is rotated to get the leading edge of the paper past the print head.

Single sheets are not printable for the top inch or bottom one and five-eighth inches due to the requirement that the paper must always be under the tear-bar rollers at the top and that the paper-out signal not be triggered. The latter causes the printer to go into the off-line mode.

Envelopes have the problems of single-sheet printing plus an additional one caused by varying thickness of multiple layers in the envelope's construction. Envelopes can be printed with a continuous fanfold paper backing. The extended envelope flap allows printing close to the top, while the fanfold paper keeps the paper out signal off. Although the printing is legible, there is a noticeable difference in print density going from two to three paper thicknesses across the envelope.

Once loaded, fanfold paper works perfectly. For envelopes and high-quality correspondence requirements, I use the normal 20-lb. fanfold paper output in conjunction with a Canon PC-20 copier. Both envelopes and letter-head stationary can easily be fed into the copier with the fanfold paper serving as the master. The copier output is of superior quality, totally unlike what most of us have grown accustomed to in the past.

* * * * * * *

Page 2 of every ***FOGHORN*** is reserved for membership information and the answers to frequently asked questions. Please take a few minutes to read this information.

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SOFTWARE REVIEWS

SPL

from the FOG RBBS, author unknown

SPL	
Overall Rating: Good	
Performance	Good
Documentation	Good
Ease of use	Excellent
Error Handling	Fair

SPL is a print spooler. I have not witnessed any other disk type spooler product in operation, so I have nothing to use for comparison. I do know this one does all that is claimed in the advertising. It has some bugs (described in detail later). The manufacturer is Blat Research & Development Corporation, 8016 188th NW, Edmonds, WA 98020, 1(800)LOBO-BAY. George, the technical wizard, will help if anything goes wrong (as long as you call) which it probably will not with the Osborne. Because of Osborne's plain vanilla CP/M system, no special installation should be required except to advise SPL of the Osborne clear screen code (1A hex)(Even this is not an absolute requirement to have the program operate properly).

For those unfamiliar with a spooler, a brief explanation of what it does and why you might want or need one. A spooler takes output destined for the CP/M list (LST:) device (in this case) and stores it somewhere else temporarily, usually in a disk queue file or in a portion of RAM set aside for this purpose. Once the output has been side tracked, virtually complete control of the computer keyboard is passed back to the user and printing begins. The most important thing is that the console device has priority over the output to the list device. The two nearly simultaneous operations are controlled by a portion of the SPL program which loads itself into high memory at the top of the transient program area (TPA). All I/O passes through and is judged and directed by the SPL program. The end result is that after the queue file has loaded up, you type merrily away and your printer prints merrily away, and you notice little or no slow down or interruption to your normal operation. Without a spooler or similar type device, when you PIP LST:, print a WordStar file, or LLIST an MBASIC file, you lose all or most of the control over the computer's operation. You can edit while in WordStar, but the process is agonizingly slow, at least with my EPSON printer (Centronics Parallel).

There are different kinds of spoolers. Some have fixed queue file sizes. Some fail to strip out the high (8th) bit making them all but useless with WordStar and most other word processing programs. SPL has no adverse effect on WordStar files.

SPL has four modes of operation. I have tried all four. I think B will be the most used for all but the smallest chores. The four modes are as follows:

A. Spool into/from memory
B. Spool into/from queue-file
C. Unspool an ASCII file
D. Redirect CP/M LIST device to disk

Modes A and B act identically. In the case of A, the user specifies how much of RAM is to be set aside as queue space (2-15K) depending on the TPA available. In mode B, the user specifies the disk on which to write the queue file and the amount of space to allocate (up to the remaining space on that disk which is conveniently posted for the user by SPL). You should remember that if you use mode B, you obviously will not be able to remove the disk containing the queue file. This may seem a mute point, but it can become critical. It does little good to have control of your computer if you still can't continue with your operations. For that reason, I suggest trying hard to leave room for at least 20K of queue file on your A drive containing WordStar. This will allow you to change data disks once the queue file has loaded and control has returned to you the user. 20K is not available to single-density users. You can free up some space by removing AUTOST.COM and XDIR.COM (8-10K will be left I think).

Modes C and D are interactive for the most part. Mode C simply unspools any existing ASCII file. Very similar to PIP LST:=, except console control is returned to the user. If the file is a WordStar file, all the "8th" bit and normally invisible print control codes will appear on the printout. Mode D performs essentially the same function as WordStar's "Disk File Output" printing option. If you are in the habit of saving your files in this manner, you are probably using this function in WordStar, and will find little use for mode D. WordStar files saved in this manner will print nicely using mode C but are larger than standard WordStar files which are expanded at the time of output.

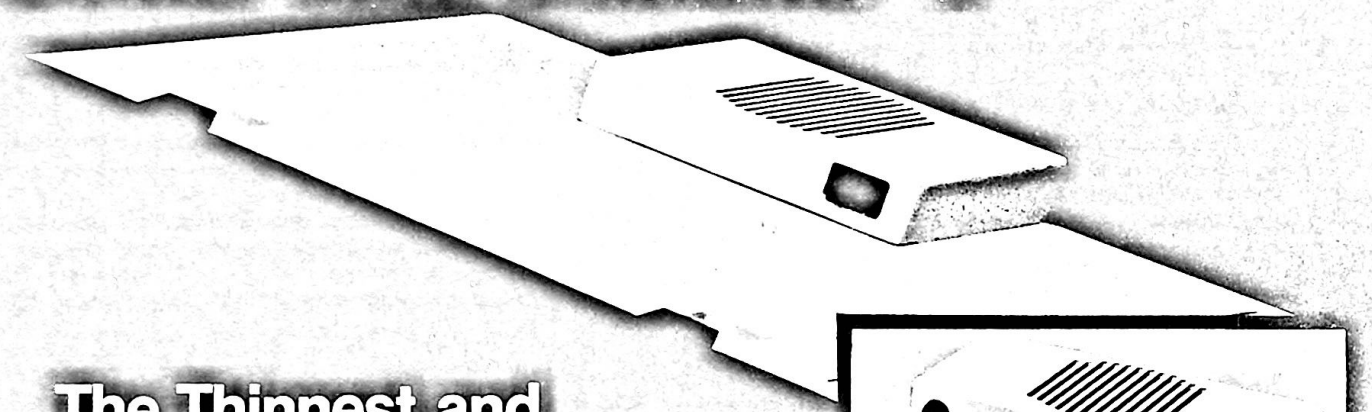
Now for the bugs (non-features?). There are three which I have found annoying enough to gnash teeth over. First, SPL cannot be loaded using WordStar's "R" (Run a command) option from the editing no-file menu. You will get an error message stating "CCP not present" if you try to load SPL from this mode (I think WordStar overwrites the Console Command Processor (CCP) (perfectly legal), essentially giving more TPA, and then reloads it by performing a "warm boot" upon exit). At any rate, if you did not load SPL prior to booting WordStar, you must exit, load SPL and then reload WordStar. All of which cuts into the increased productivity SPL is supposed provide. The second bug is that an attempt to load SPL after it has already been loaded results in a clearing of the screen and a printed statement that "SPL is already active". This is okay if the statement were always true. Unfortunately, if you do not specifically unload SPL prior to performing a "cold boot", you will still get the "SPL is already active" message, even though SPL is not really active. Once this happens, the only way to regain control and properly load SPL is to power completely down and reload SPL on the next power-up. Why the program was not designed to write over itself I can't say. I wrote George and asked him if something could be done. No response. I'm sure he would have been more responsive if I had called. And Blat does have an 800 number. The third bug is that certain special function keys (SFK) will be unusable when SPL is active. Up to two keystrokes will work okay, but long sequences will be fragmented similar to the the way they are with dBASE II. This occurs because of the alteration to the normal I/O timing caused by SPL. As with dBASE II, the problem can be overcome with experimentation in spacing of SFK sequences when using SETUP.COM to program the SFKs.

Example: QUIT⟨cr⟩ may have to be entered Q U I T ⟨cr⟩
Unfortunately this uses up the available SFK bytes twice as fast.

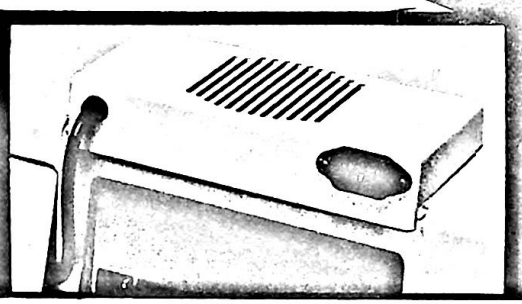
To summarize, for printing long documents, SPL, another print spooler or a hardware buffer of some sort becomes almost mandatory. SPL at $139 is not cheap as far as disk print spoolers go. There may well be other spoolers of equal performance at a lesser price. A hardware buffer will almost undoubtedly cost much much more; like on the order of $150 to $350 for 16K to 64K respectively. As mentioned before, with SPL, you are only limited only to the available disk space. The inability to use the SFKs without alteration is another serious drawback. The ability to call the programmer, George, toll free and get concrete answers to your questions is rare and is hereby applauded.

* * * * * * *

OSCOOL FAN™ Cools Your Osborne® 1



The Thinnest and Most Compact Fan!



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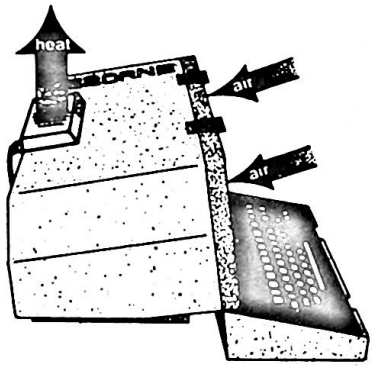
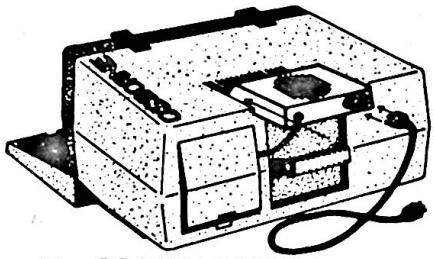
- Streamlined unit: measures 7½" by 3½" by only 1" high (installed).
- ONLY $79.50! The **OSCOOL FAN™** increases your computer's reliability, eliminates downtime and repair charges.
- One year warranty.
- The convenient green lighted switch is located in front of the **OSCOOL FAN™**, eliminating the need to reach into the rear compartment of the computer to turn it on.
- Gray color, matches the housing of the Osborne 1.
- Available in 120 V or 220 V and 50/60 HZ.

EFFICIENT COOLING



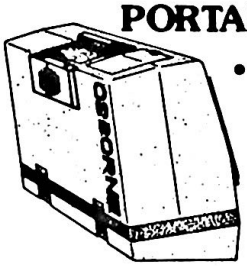
- The **OSCOOL FAN™** is an efficient unit, and discharges hot air through the rear vent.
- The **OSCOOL FAN™** protects your computer against problems caused by internal heat, thus prolonging the life and improving the reliability of your computer.

INSTALLS INSTANTLY



- The **OSCOOL FAN™** slides into existing vent slots. No tools required.

PORTABLE



- The **OSCOOL FAN™** uses the computer's own AC cord, increasing portability.
- **OSCOOL FAN™** travels piggyback on your computer. It is thin and compact, fitting easily into existing cabinets and stands.

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Tank Encounters, Scores

Reviewed by Irene Cohen

You're an Allied tank commander in World War II defending Paris from the Germans with three tanks.

That's **Tank Encounters**, an action-graphics maze game by Harry Hahne with tanks that fire at each other. The game costs $24.95, but if you are a CFOG member it's only $21.95. It's available from Your Affordable Software Company at 1525 N. Elston, Chicago, IL 60622. Phone them at (312) 266-2220 or 348-0123.

You're in the streets of Paris, commanding three remaining tanks, which are your three lives. One of my complaints is that you can't fire through the tunnels. This may have been simply an oversight, but it's irritating since it should logically be possible. I'd also like to have the high score on the screen during the game but I realize that there isn't really room for it (especially on the two-person version).

NO RANKING

Another slightly irritating thing is that you don't have much chance to see your score at the end of the game. It would be nice if you could control when you leave the last invasion, and if the congratulatory message contained your ranking.

Another annoying feature, especially in the two-person game, is that you can't control when the next invasion starts (i.e. start a new "board"). Players often have hardly enough time to switch places. An improvement would be to have a message like "Press return when ready to continue". Then you could look at your situation, leave to do something else like answer the phone, and have time to change places even if the player just killed, is in shock and won't move. I really hate the situation, where I had to answer the phone, and watched helplessly while my tanks were getting killed, especially when I was doing well. This happens in most games, however, and this isn't an unusual complaint.

Except for these minor complaints, I feel Tank Encounters is a fun game. It takes a while to get used to the controls, but after that it's easy to move around and fire. When you get good enough, you may even get to boards numbering in the high teens. I wonder if there is a limit?

I like the fact that the game allows you one major advantage over the Germans: you can shoot from many angles, so you can get them while they can't get you. If it weren't for that, it would be impossibly hard! While there are patterns, there are many for each board. The boards aren't all the same; there seem to be three different street arrangements, but in almost every new invasion you are arranged differently. (The fifth and sixth boards seem harder than the seventh.)

Tank Encounters is an enjoyable game that doesn't leave you bored because it's always a challenge, but not impossible.

* * * * * * *

SUPERFILE

Reviewed by Francesca Thoolen

My hobby is growing and breeding irises. I am also the treasurer for the American Iris Society. Because of these two activities I use primarily WordStar and SuperCalc. I use WordStar for some correspondence but primarily as a word processor to extract information from the the American Iris Society's checklists which list the registration data pertaining to irises and their pedigrees. My interest is primarily the pedigrees.

I use **SUPERFILE** from FYI, Inc., which is a relational database system. For this project I favor it over dBase II since: 1) I learned it first, and 2) it is a "free form" data base which allows for variable assignments of values, i.e., with WordStar I type the text as it appears in the checklists, enter keywords as prescribed by SUPERFILE then use SUPERFILE to create a dictionary and a database which I use to retrieve information on any iris. The keywords can be of variable lengths, I do not need to estimate the amount of characters I might have to assign to each field, as I would with dBase II (I believe?).

I wanted to be able to recall an iris by name and display its pedigree on a chart. For a long time I mulled over how to do this and could not think of a solution. Then, I learned that material prepared with SuperCalc could be transferred to WordStar using the Output to (D)isk option. I created a pedigree chart [template] on SuperCalc, protected it, then saved it as PCHART. I then proceeded to fill in the blanks with information from the checklists and when completed, saved it to the name of the iris. The next step was to transfer this filled chart to the text of the raw data files (created with WS) This was done using the ^KR and ^KW commands. Once this chart is part of the WS text I use SUPERFILE to call it on the screen and print it if I so wish.

There is one problem: my charts are 160 columns, my screen is only 80 column. In SuperCalc one can view the screen in sections. In WS I format to 160 columns but the words must still wrap to the next line. So when I have my charts in WS the words wrap to the next line, of course, and the screen is not at all representative of what will be printed. So one must be sure the material is proofread and copy perfect before transferring to WS. I also learned that if I want to format more than 160 columns in WS, anything wider than 160 columns will wait to print on another page which I cannot use. Fortunately I only need 160 columns which will handle 7-8 generations of pedigree having 19 columns for fill-in space and 1 column for vertical "lines".

One advantage of using SUPERFILE, the keywords can be the full name of the iris regardless of length. In other words, I have found SUPERFILE to be a very satisfying retrieval program, very easy to learn (having learned when I first purchased the OSBORNE 1 and never sat in front of a computer before!) and after using the program for 1 year I have not had any problems with it. SUPERFILE has come out with an update and registered users were given the opportunity to purchase it at a reasonable price. I have not had a chance to use it yet but perhaps that will be the opportunity for another "dissertation".

In spite of the fact that I have found a solution, I am not sure that it is the best, in that I do have to go through several steps to achieve what I want to do but I am open to a simpler and shorter method if anyone can offer any. I am a relative beginner, so I am sure I have not necessarily used the best method to achieve my goal.

[*If I remember correctly, you can patch your WordStar to 127 columns, but that still leaves you with a 33 column wrap! David*]

* * * * * * *

LOOKING FOR A LOCAL GROUP?

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CALENDAR

Under this heading you will find the listing of activities and events of Affiliated Member Organizations. Listings are the responsibility of organization officers. Officers must have corrections into FOG office by the first of the month prior to publication (March 1st for the April issue). For a list of other groups, see ***"CONTACTS"*** later in this issue, in back issues starting January, 1983, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the FOG offices. Please include a note with your geographical area.

Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
1st M	Mar 5	Milwaukee, WI	22-MilwOG	7:00pm	Engin & Math Science Bldg. Rm E495, Univ. of WI	414-691-4241
	Mar 5	Fresno, CA	35-FROG	7:00pm	Great West Savings, 1st & Herndon	209-683-2252
	Mar 5	Jackson, MS	58-MCPM	6:00pm	R & D Center, 3825 Ridgewood Rd,, 5th Fl Conf Rm.	601-366-0928
	Mar 5	Menlo Park,CA	68-SMOG³	7:30pm	Crane Place, 1331 Crane	415-326-2543
	Mar 5	Tacoma, WA	72-TOG³	7:00pm	Pierce Co. Library (Basement Mtg Rm) 404 Garfield So.	206-752-5582
1st Tu	Mar 6	Oberlin, OH	9-^Ob^Os	7:00pm	Lower level, Main Library, Oberlin College	216-775-8290
	Mar 6	Santa Maria, CA	42-SMOG	7:00pm	Allstate Savings & Loan, 401 South Broadway	805-937-1128
1st W	Mar 7	Stockton, CA	11-SOG	7:00pm	Allen's Computerland 4343 Pacific Ave.	209-475-8440
	Mar 7	Sacramento, CA	61-SOG	7:00pm	SMUD Training Bldg, 1708 59th St	916-422-3260
1st Th	Mar 1	Santa Clara, CA	1-1st FOG SV	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Drive (loading dock entrance)	415-856-0954
	Mar 1	Denver, CO	4-DOG	8:00pm	Masonic Temple, 3550 Federal Blvd.	303-934-1407
	Mar 1	W. Lafayette, IN	34-HOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	317-743-5275
	Mar 1	Auckland, NZ	53-NZOG	7:30pm	20 Kingsley Avenue	659-738
	Mar 1	Santa Rosa, CA	56-No. Bay FOG	7:00pm	Valley Oak Park Rec Hall, 2600 Northcoast	707-546-0145
each Th	Mar 1	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-273-5335
1st F	Mar 2	Wiesbaden Germany	24-AGOG	7:00pm	Hainerberg Cafeteria	0612-213276
1st Sa	Mar 3	Lexington, KY	32-KOG	12:00n	Room 128, Erickson Hall, University of Kentucky	606-623-1884
2nd Su	Mar 11	Miami, FL	26-GCOUG	1:00pm	F.I.U Tamiami Campus, Building DM, Room 100	305-255-7827
	Mar 11	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	Downtown Branch Amarillo Public Library	806-355-7509
2nd M	Mar 12	Fayetteville, AR	23-AFOG	7:00pm	Alternates between Ft. Smith — CONFIRM	501-575-2980
	Mar 12	Evansville, IN	46-E-OSBUG	6:30pm	Oaklyn Branch Evansville Library, Oakhills & Lynch	812-479-5108
	Mar 12	Toronto, Ont	49-TASOFOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	416-889-2072
	Mar 12	Charlotte, NCt	71-LOGIC	7:30pm	CONFIRM	704-377-1154
2nd Tu	Mar 13	Ames, IA	12-Midwest FOG	7:00pm	IA State (old engineering annex) W. Lincoln Way	515-266-8764
	Mar 13	Memphis, TN	15-MOG	7:00pm	34th Fl., Clark Bldg., Federal Express Conf. Rm	901-795-5017
	Mar 13	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	7:00pm	West America Bank, Strawberry Village	415-892-2713
	Mar 13	Lincoln, NE	39-Lincoln LOG	7:30pm	Smith Curtis Bldg., NE Wesleyan Univ., 52nd & St. Paul	402-472-1392
	Mar 13	Omaha, NE	44-OACP/MUG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	402-348-0440
	Mar 13	Montreal, PQ	73-Microcozm	6:30pm	AES Data, 100 Alexis Nihon Blvd, Ste. 810	514-849-7761
2nd W	Mar 14	Oakland, CA	3-East Bay FOG	6:00pm	B & B Electric, 2832 Ford Street	415-834-9346
	Mar 14	Vancouver, BC	17-VPCC	7:30pm	Hastings Community Center, 3096 East Hastings	604-298-6990
	Mar 14	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-775-1102
	Mar 14	Clayton, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Mid County Library, Central & MD	314-862-6239
	Mar 14	Oklahoma City, OK	67-OKLOG	7:00pm	3400 N.W. Grand Blvd	405-843-5925
	Mar 14	Cleveland, OH	75-COG	7:00pm	Trinity Cathedral House, East 22nd & Euclid Ave.	216-871-2532
2nd Th	Mar 8	Davis, CA	6-DOG	7:30pm	CONFIRM	916-756-2967
	Mar 8	Sioux City, IA	38-SOG	7:30pm	Morningside Coll., Charles City Hall Rm 101	712-252-2182
	Mar 8	Modesto, CA	48-Tule FOG		CONFIRM	209-578-4909
	Mar 8	Medford, OR	54-RVOG	7:30pm	33 No. Central #306	503-482-8646
alter Th	Mar 8	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	Mar 8	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-273-5335

Continued next page

Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
2nd F	Mar 9	Salinas, CA	5-MBAOCUG	7:00pm	12250 Alp Circle	408-722-4272
2nd Sa	Mar 9	Bangkok Thailand	36-BOG	1:00pm	Action Computers 5/26 Saladaeng Road, Silom	662-311-4966
	Mar 9	Louisville, KY	64-PCC	1:00pm	Univ. of Louisvile, Shelby Campus, Rm 202 Burhans Hall	502-423-0451
3rd M	Mar 19	Raleigh, NC	8-ROCC	7:30pm	CONFIRM — Dreyfus Aud., Research Triangle Inst.	919-782-9576
	Mar 19	Oberlin, OH	9-^Ob^Os	7:00pm	Lower level, Main Library, Oberlin College	216-775-8290
	Mar 19	Wenatchee, WA	10-WOG	7:00pm	Computer Systems Marketing,1030 North Wenatchee	509-884-3279
	Mar 19	Detroit, MI	14-DeFOG	7:30pm	Ford Tech Center Cafeteria, 1700 Rotunda Dr, Dearborn	313-471-1342
	Mar 19	Edmonton, Alb	45-KOG	7:30pm	Alberta Vocational College, 10215 — 108 Street	403-459-0416
	Mar 19	Anchorage, AK	63-GLOB	8:30pm	Anchorage Comm. College, 2nd Floor — Bldg K	907-277-0950
3rd Tu	Mar 20	Cincinnati, OH	27-COG	7:00pm	Central Trust Center 6th floor, 5th & Main Streets	513-232-4076
	Mar 20	Atascadero, CA	47-CCOG	7:30pm	Mission Savings, Chorro & Marsh	805-466-8311
3rd W	Mar 21	Austin, TX	7-AEIOU	6:30pm	Old Quarry Library off Far West Blvd.	512-837-7539
	Mar 21	Oak Ridge, TN	13-SMOG	7:30pm	CONFIRM	615-482-7919
	Mar 21	Las Vegas, NV	25-VOG	6:00pm	Las Vegas Library, 1726 East Charleston	702-452-2544
	Mar 21	Humboldt, CA	29-HOG	7:00pm	Room 126 Science Bldg., Humboldt State	707-445-2074
	Mar 21	Dunbar, WV	59-Valley FOG	6:30pm	Dunbar Public Library	304-727-6436
	Mar 21	Walnut Creek, CA	60-Mt. DOG	7:00pm	SF Federal, 1660 Olympic Blvd, Diablo Rm	415-933-2665
3rd Th	Mar 15	Santa Clara, CA	1-1st FOG SV	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Drive (loading dock entrance)	415-856-0954
	Mar 15	Provo, UT	30-KAOS	8:00pm	Wiltec Research Co. 488 South 500 West	801-225-8293
	Mar 15	College Station, TX	43-AGGNOG	5:30pm	A & A Building, Texas A & M Univ.	409-845-5814
	Mar 15	Ann Arbor, MI	37-TOGA²	7:00pm	Neuro Science Bldg. Univ. of MI, 1103 East Huron St	313-662-9026
	Mar 15	Tulsa, OK	51-OUT	7:00pm	Micro Systems, 2010 South 68th East Ave	918-584-5610
	Mar 15	Richmond, VA	52-CVOG	7:00pm	Red Cross Bldg, 4th and Main	804-270-9404
	Mar 15	Beaverton, OR	57-OSBUG	7:00pm	Tektronix Bldg 50, Auditorium	503-642-9692
	Mar 15	St. Croix, VI	70-StCOUG	7:30pm	College of the Virgin Islands	809-773-7551
each Th	Mar 15	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-273-5335
3rd Sa	Mar 17	Kenai, AK	18-PenFOG	10:00am	Room V111, Kenai Peninsula Comm. College	907-262-5801
4th Su	Mar 25	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	CONFIRM	806-355-7509
	Mar 25	Pittsburgh, PA	50-TROG	2:30pm	Mellon Science Building, Duquesne Univ.	412-456-3946
4th M	Mar 26	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	6:30pm	CONFIRM	415-892-2713
4th Tu	Mar 27	Wichita, KS	21-OPEK	7:30pm	St. Paul's Methodist Church, 13th & Broadway	316-945-8389
	Mar 27	Greenville, SC	41-POGO	6:30pm	Computer Dynamics, 1540 Wade Hampton Blvd.	803-233-3434
	Mar 27	St. Louis, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Thornhill Library, 12863 Willowyck	314-862-6239
4th W	Mar 28	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-775-1102
4th Th	Mar 22	San Francisco, CA	2-SF FOG	7:00pm	St. Aidan's Church, Goldmine & Diamond Hgts.	415-334-2851
Th	Mar 22	Lancaster, PA	74-LOG	7:30pm	Fire Protection Sys, 1873 Lincoln Hwy East	717-898-8929
alter Th	Mar 22	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	Mar 22	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-273-5335
last Tu	Mar 27	Santa Barbara, CA	69-OSBUG	7:30pm	SB Planning Rm, 105 E. Anapamu St	805-375-3258
last W	Mar 28	Richland, WA	19-TROG	7:00pm	1776 Fowler	509-375-3258
????		Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	33-AIKOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	874-4798
????		, CA	65-OPMUG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	408-458-9047
????		Sierra Madre, CA	66-SMOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	818-355-8825

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS! New advertising rates are effective with the March issue. See page 2 for the new rates.

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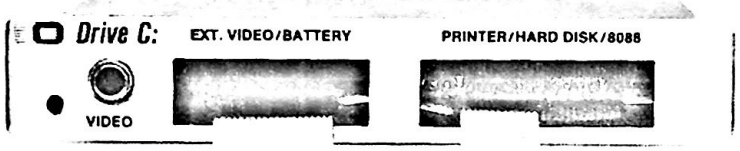

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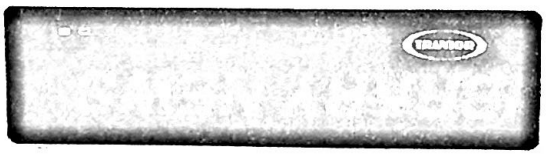

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SYSTEM NOTES

Make Fine Print

by Dick Ezzard

Do you ever need to jam a lot of printed matter onto a page? A lawyer might want to cover a lot of boiler-plate technicalities for the sake of formality. Or a computer hacker might need a printed-out BIOS listing which he will refer to only on rare occasions. Maybe you just want to save paper. If you can use fine print for whatever reason, there is a relatively simple way to get legible output from a WordStar file using the Epson MX-80 printer with Graftrax option.

The first way to start packing print is to compress horizontally. Undoubtedly you are familiar with the Epson's compressed character font. Going from normal print to compressed characters increases the potential number of characters on an 8-inch wide printing page from 4320 characters at the normal 10 characters per inch to 7128 characters when the compressed character font is used. To invoke compressed characters just head up the file to be printed by inserting the WordStar printer control character which has been installed on your system to call up compressed characters. This varies from system to system but you will know what it is.

Additional cramming gains are made by changing the line spacing. The normal Epson line spacing allows 6 lines to the vertical inch, for the WordStar default page length of 66 lines. The actual printing field, however, contains only 54 lines if one inch margins are allowed at top and bottom. To get more than 6 lines to the inch, it is necessary to operate outside of WordStar. Although WordStar has a very convenient method for double-spacing and triple-spacing, etc., there is no convenient way to increase the number of lines. The dot command, LH, does not work with the Epson (although it seems like it should be patchable somehow, but that's another project).

Once your computer system is turned on, messages may be sent to the printer in various ways. The messages may be characters to be printed or they may be controls which tell the Epson how to print. Or a message may be a file which is a combination of characters to be printed plus instructions on how to print.

One way to communicate with the printer, of course, is through WordStar's print command module which sends printer controls and interprets dot commands and also sends text to be printed. But as stated, WordStar has no way to send instructions to the printer to jam up the line spacing.

The solution is to set up the printer for more lines per inch PRIOR to invoking WordStar. There are programs to talk to the printer but the simplest way is to send control codes direct to the printer from the keyboard. If you use CP/M's ^P command, you open up communications with the printer.

At the CP/M A> prompt, type **^P** then follow with **<ESC>0<RETURN>**. The printer will rattle and from then on until told otherwise, or turned off, the printer will put out 8 lines to the vertical inch. Hit **^P** again to disconnect from the printer. You can now invoke WordStar for printing.

Since you will be printing at 8 lines to the vertical inch, change the page length in your document to 88 lines and reserve an inch at the top and at the bottom for margins. You thus can print on 72 lines per page and the potential number of characters per page is increased to 9504. Actually when using cut paper, I head up the file with the following dot commands:

```
.PL 80
.MT 0
.MB 8
```

The top inch of the page is subtracted in hardware (my head) when I put the paper into the printer and WordStar never gets to know about it. Compressed print at 8 lines to the inch is quite legible, about equivalent to reading a newspaper.

There is another easily available line spacing for the Epson: 7/72" — which is just a teensy bit better than 10 lines to the vertical inch. Lines this tightly packed are too close for the compressed character font and we must resort to the superscript or subscript font in order to keep characters from printing over each other. Compressed superscript characters still print at 132 to the line, and with 90 lines available for printing you can cram a potential total of 11880 characters onto a regular sized page, quite an increment over the normal 4320.

To get this fine print, at the CP/M A> prompt hit your **^P** and type in **<ESC>1<RETURN>**. Then do **^P** again and go to WordStar to execute the printing. At the front of the file make sure that you lead off the text with the printer control characters for compressed characters AND superscript. Of course, adjust your vertical page format. I use:

```
.PL 100
.MT 0
.MB 10
```

About a year ago, the topic of superscript and subscript was THE hot technical question. That was because Epson had published the wrong control codes in their manual and consequently anybody who followed instructions could not get super and subscripts running. But the definitive and correct answer to the patching problem was published in the ***Portable Companion***, April/May 1983 issue on page 20.

Be aware that superscript printing automatically turns off bi-directional operation and starts up double striking. This slows everything down by a factor of four, which makes it really slow. If you are going to print fine, you will undoubtedly want to print as a background activity while you are simultaneously editing another file because you will be there printing for quite a while. No problem if you have installed the WordStar print spooler patch which appeared in the October 1983 ***Portable Companion*** on page 52 and which was corrected for the double density BIOS on page 39 of the December 1983 ***FOGHORN***.

That patch is highly recommended for it makes printing and editing simultaneously completely feasible. The eleven bytes involved in the patch are as valuable as many other whole programs and are worth their weight in gold to heavy WordStar users. Many thanks to the people involved in that one: Ted Warn, Erwin Winz and John Dilday who spread the word.

When using compressed characters at 8 lines to the inch or compressed superscript at 10 lines to the inch, it is difficult to read text if the lines extend all across the page. Reading is aided tremendously if the text is broken down into columns (like the ***FOGHORN***, or other newsletters).

A quick and dirty way to do columns is for you to physically help the computer. Print your first WordStar "page" down the left column, reload the paper and print the next "page" down the righthand side of the paper. Just remember to put page offset instructions (dot command ".PO n") at the top of each page. The page offset for the left columns will be the number of spaces you want for the left margin (WordStar default is 8) and the page offset for the right column should be enough for that "page" to stand clear of the left column.

I have found the following arrangement to be pleasing when doing fine print: Enter text with the margin set at 52 which is convenient for the Osborne screen. Set the page length to 100 lines, the top margin to 0 and the bottom margin to 10. For the first page, offset to 8 spaces [the WordStar default value]. Enter print control characters for compressed characters and superscript to lead off the text. At the second "page" (which will be printed in the right hand column) enter a page offset dot command to 68. At the third page (which will again be in a left column) alternate the page offset back to 8.

cont. on page 49

WordStar Blinking Cursor and Arrow Keys Auto-Switched

by Bob Hamilton

I have recently received several disks from the FOG library and have found many of the programs extremely useful. In reading several of the letters in the ***FOGHORN***, it has come to mind that the programs on the library are not getting enough publicity because many of the requests for help and comments can be resolved by using the programs from the FOG Library.

For example, a number of letters are concerned with the arrow keys in WordStar vs CP/M. This problem can be eliminated completely by installing WSPATCH found on -FOG/APP.005. If you have SD the program should work without modification and you simply run WSPATCH.COM. If you have DD, you will have to modify the program WSPATCH.ASM by changing the BIOS entry location. In the DD version of CP/M 1.44, the entry point for BIOS was changed from 0E500 to 0E100. Therefore you must change the WSPATCH.ASM code referring to these locations. This can be done using WordStar option N to make the correction to the program WSPATCH.ASM. Once you are editing the program you can use the following WordStar command to make the change:

```
^QA  0E5  to 0E1  option UG
 ¦    ¦      ¦          ¦¦- change all occurrences
 ¦    ¦      ¦          ¦-- ignore upper/lower case
 ¦    ¦      ¦--------------- change code to
 ¦    ¦---------------------- change code from
 ¦--------------------------- WordStar change command
```

This will change all references to the BIOS location. If you do not use option U, you will have to change a modification made by Jim Wooley which was entered as 0e5. After the changes have been made and you have saved WSPATCH.ASM, you will have to assemble or compile the program. This is done by placing you disk with ASM.COM in drive A and the disk with WSPATCH.ASM in drive B. Then enter the command

A) **ASM WSPATCH.BBB**

This causes the assembler program to look on drive B for the program to be assembled. It will also place the following files on drive B:

WSPATCH.PRN and WSPATCH.HEX

You will not need WSPATCH.PRN unless you would like to see an assembler program listing. The next step is to create the .COM file. This is done by placing the disk with LOAD.COM on drive A and the disk with WSPATCH.HEX on drive B. Now enter the following

A) **LOAD B:WSPATCH**

You will now have a file named WSPATCH.COM. All you must do now is follow the instructions found in WSPATCH.DOC on -FOG/APP.005.

Now enjoy your new version of WordStar which has a blinking cursor and will automatically switch the arrow keys each time you enter and leave WordStar. Believe me it makes it much nicer. I do have to mention one side effect (at least on my Osborne), the screen scrolls to the right as normal; however once it has scrolled it does not always return to column 1 until I have pressed a new key. It gets a little disconcerting when you are looking at a blank screen especially after writing a long letter and you think you may have lost it all.

[*For another treatment of this subject see* Blink the Cursor *by Scott Stockton, below. Also, the blinking cursor information can be found in this months* HELP *and* FOG Library *columns. Boy, the response on this was overwhelming. To those of you that sent a answer (how to get the WordStar cursor to blink on the DD Osborne) that didn't get printed, thank you and — I'm sorry. David*]

* * * * * * *

Disk Doctor for Double Density

by Jonathan Owens

This is an explanation of a minor problem I have found with the Osborne Approved Software package "Disk Doctor". As purchased, the program is configured to fix (doctor) bad SINGLE density disks, which would work fine if you had only a single density Osborne 1. The included file "READ.ME" states that you do not need to install Disk Doctor for the Osborne 1, because it is already installed. As I said above, this is only true for single density. They also included the install program, which they say just to maintain a complete system. However, the parameters needed to install the software for double density were not provided. The program can be installed using a trial and error method to find the correct parameters, which I have done. So you don't have to find the parameters yourself, here they are:

Drive	Low Sector	Sectors	Tracks
Osborne 1 Single Density	0	20	40
Osborne 1 Double Density	0	40	40

With the above parameters, the installation program provided with Disk Doctor and the instructions in the documentation (Chapter 3), you can get Disk Doctor to read either single or double density disks by installing one disk with the single density parameters (as shipped) and one disk with double density parameters.

Jonathan Owens is the President of KAOS (KAypro OSborne users group, an Affiliated Members Organization located in Utah. For information on joining this group, write to 1093 West 320 South, Orem, UT 84057 or call the number listed on the **CALENDAR** *in the centerfold of this issue.*

* * * * * * *

Blink the Cursor

by Scott Stockton

I was interested to see that out of all of the talent within FOG members that no one had yet figured out a way to blink the cursor in WordStar on the DD 1.4X ROM. I got a copy of Lee Swordy's patch shortly after I got my double density upgrade (about a year ago). The big problem with this (and a significant number of other public domain programs for Ozzie) is that the programmers have forgotten to make the BIOS and BDOS calls and addresses relative. After a lot of trial and error, and searching memory using the **POWER!** program which came with my Mega-byte 23Mb Winchester disk, I discovered that the major change needed was to change the addresses to E1?? from E5??. The assembly language program below can be assembled with ASM, then LOADed, then run on your current WordStar file. It works slick! It will ask you how fast you want your blink on your cursor 0-9 (I use 6) and perform the patch and write your modified WordStar to disk. Be careful to have an unmodified backup on another disk because this writes back over your WS file and you may be susceptible to BDOS errors. The program also automatically reconfigures your arrow keys each time you run WordStar and returns to the CP/M convention when you exit.

I am a FOG member (as well as one of the first Denver Osborne Group members) and have bought two O-1's in the last three years including #4012 back in '81. I gave that one away and now use a blue case one with the 22MB hard disk (excellent investment) and a Transtar 130 letter quality daisy wheel printer. The quality of the help and articles in the ***FOGHORN*** is fantastic! Much better that it used to be. Keep Up the good work!

[*The listing is printed here for those without easy access to the related files in the FOG Disk Library. Ref. WSPATCH.DOC, WSPATCH.COM.*]

cont. on page 51

User Area Numbers

by Jonathan Owens

CP/M provides 16 different user areas in the directory, which allows segregation of files on a disk, with separate files and directories for each user. I use this to put two FOG library disks on one double density Osborne disk, saving disk space without confusion of file names, or the need to rename files before putting the two disks on on double density disk.

To get files into other user areas, you must first get PIP into the other area (unless you have POWER!). The Osborne 1 User's Reference Guide that I have, states that by assigning a file to system status (using the STAT command) that file can be accessed from all user areas. THIS IS NOT TRUE. However, the user's guide does refer to a method that does work, but does not give enough information to do it. The method involves loading PIP.COM into the computer's memory, changing user numbers, and using the CP/M SAVE command to put the file from memory to disk in the new user area. The following is a step by step description of the procedure. (user inputs are **bold**)

A> **PIP <CR>**
* **<CR>**
A> **USER 1<CR>** (For user area 1)
A> **SAVE 32 NPIP.COM <CR>**
A>

You now have in user area 1 a program called NPIP.COM, which has all of the PIP.COM program, with some garbage included at the end. Now you can get a correct copy of PIP.COM into user area 1 by using the NPIP program.

A> **USER 1<CR>**
A> **NPIP PIP.COM=PIP.COM[GO]<CR>**
(The "GO" means to (G)et the source file from user area 0)
A> **ERA NPIP.COM<CR>**

Now you have PIP.COM in area 1, and have erased the NPIP program, which you no longer need. You can PIP any file into the new user area using the "G#" parameter, where the "#" symbol represents the user area number where the source file is. (For more information on PIP special parameters, see your Osborne 1 User's Reference Guide, under the CP/M reference section.) The CP/M wildcards work here as with standard PIP.

Once you have files in other user areas, you must go into that area to access those files, to get a directory of them, or even to erase them. As I mentioned above, I use different user areas to separate files from two (or three) FOG library disks on one double density disk.

To make a single density copy of the two library disks, first copy the files that are in user area 0 to a formatted single density disk. Put a formatted single density disk in drive B, load PIP into memory from any of your disks, put the library disk in A, and then copy the files as below.

(with any disk that has PIP.COM in A, and a blank formatted single density disk in B)
A> **PIP<CR>**
(After the return, and the disk stops, remove the disk with PIP from Drive A and put in the double density disk you want to copy from.)

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* **B:=*.*[GO]<CR>**

(The computer will reply:)

```
COPYING-
   FILE1.EXT
   FILE2 EXT
   FILE3.EXT
      .
      .
      .
```

(when all files from user area 0 are transferred, the computer will return the * prompt)

* **<CR>** (to exit PIP)

A>

(You have now copied the first library disk off of the double density disk. To copy the second, put another blank single density disk in B, do a warm boot (^C) to reset the disk drive, and proceed)

A> **PIP<CR>**

(now take the disk with pip out and put in the double density disk to copy from into drive A)

* **b:=*.*[G1]** (copies all files from drive A user area 1)

(when the computer finishes transferring the files, it will return with PIP's * prompt)

* **<CR>**

A>

You now have two single density disks, with the files as distributed from FOG.

* * * * * * *

Redirecting AUTOST.COM to Use DATTIM.COM

by Benjamin H. Cohen

When you boot a disk the CP/M system looks for a file called AUTOST.COM and attempts to run it. If there is no file there by that name you get a message "AUTOST?"

There's an easy way to change the autostart feature to run the program of your choice. SETAUTO2.COM on library disk CFOGUTL.009* [Chicago FOG library] will patch your system tracks so that instead of looking for AUTOST.COM the system will look for a program you designate. The filename must be no more than six letters long.

For example, you might want to set a SuperCalc2 disk to start with DATTIM.COM **.

If you run DATTIM.COM (which then prompts you to enter the date and time) before you load SuperCalc2, entering TODAY in a cell will return the date. If you make a practice of entering TODAY in every spreadsheet, you will always get the current date — IF you run DATTIM before you load SuperCalc2. Setting your SuperCalc2 disk to automatically load DATTIM will make sure you always enter the date and time before loading SuperCalc2 and you'll always get the right date on your spreadsheets.

Someone might want to take a look at DATTIM and tell us how to patch it so it will NOT ask for the time. SuperCalc2 doesn't do anything with the time, so it's rather a bother to have to enter it for no benefit.

[*The FOG library has SETAUTO.COM on disk FOG/UTL.009, I don't know about SETAUT02.COM. DATTIM.COM can be found on your SuperCalc2 disk.*]

* * * * * * *

dBASE II

Using the dBASE II REPORT Command for Mailing Labels

by Mark Scaramella

Anyone who has used dBASE II's REPORT command is probably more than a little skeptical about this title. Frankly, so am I. But if you want a quick 1-up label generator (i.e. one column of labels), for mail list file with a fairly small number of records in it, the REPORT command actually works pretty well... with a few tricks.

Let's assume you have a mailing list data file with the following characteristics:

USE MAIL
DISP STRU

```
STRUCTURE FOR FILE:  MAIL.DBF
NUMBER OF RECORDS:   00003
DATE OF LAST UPDATE: 00/00/00
PRIMARY USE DATABASE
FLD       NAME       TYPE WIDTH   DEC
001      FNAME        C    015
002      LNAME        C    020
003      ADDRESS      C    035
004      CITY         C    015
005      STATE        C    002
006      ZIP          C    005
** TOTAL **              00093
```

Now let's say we had three records in this file:

```
RECORD: 00001
  LNAME: Ronald
  FNAME: McReagan
ADDRESS: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Apt # 3
   CITY: Washington
  STATE: DC
    ZIP: 02001

  RECORD: 00002
  LNAME: Frederick
  FNAME: Foghorn
ADDRESS: 9999 Lily Pond Way
   CITY: Frogville
  STATE: NC
    ZIP: 32123

  RECORD: 00003
  LNAME: Mike
  FNAME: Rochip
ADDRESS: 64000 Kaybyte Drive
   CITY: Silicon Beach
  STATE: CA
    ZIP: 91234
```

Now lets try the report command to make the mailing labels for these three records....

repo form labels plain

(We chose plain for this report because we do not need the page heading or the date for our mailing labels.)

cont. on page 36

```
ENTER OPTIONS. M=LEFT MARGIN. L=LINES/PAGE. W=PAGE WIDTH
m=1,l=55,w=50
```

(If you were actually using this for mailing labels, you would select the appropriate indent (left margin) according to the characteristics of the labels you were using, lines per page is irrelevant -- see notes below, and page width is irrelevant since it is only used for centering the page heading which we are not going to need.

```
PAGE HEADING? (Y/N) n
DOUBLE SPACE REPORT? (Y/N) y
```

(We want at least one space between the label outputs so we might as well use this one.)

```
ARE TOTALS REQUIRED? (Y/N) n
```

(We don't have any numeric fields to total.)

Now for the tricky part (relatively speaking)...

```
COL     WIDTH.CONTENTS
001     35,trim(fname)+'      '+lname+';'+address+trim(city)+',
        '+state+' '+zip+';;;'
```

The column width that we want is the widest item in the output, in this case the address field. The contents of this one column will be EVERY field in the file, plus some extra characters and functions. In left-to-right order: we first want the first name field without the following blanks so we "trim" the first name field; then we want a space to precede the last name; then we want to end this line (with a carriage return/linefeed) so we send a special dBASE control character: the semi-colon, and it must be in quotes or we'd get a syntax error; then we want the address on the next line (which we got to with the semi-colon); we do not need a semi-colon after address in this example since the address field is the same number of characters as the width of our labels column; then we want the city (on the next line) without its following blank spaces; then we want a comma and a space; then the state; then another space then the zipcode; followed by our old friend the semi-colon again at least three times to get some blank lines between each label output. (The contents line starting with "trim(fname)" to ';;;' should all be on one line, we had to show it on two lines here to fit the margins.

```
ENTER HEADING: <cr>
```

(We do not want a heading for out labels column.)

```
002<cr>
```

This ends the report definition.

And out come the labels...

```
Ronald McReagan
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Apt # 3
Washington, DC 02001

Frederick Foghorn
9999 Lily Pond Way
Frogville, NC 32123

Mike Rochip
64000 Kaybyte Drive
Silicon Beach, CA 91234
```

Now that we have the labels displaying on the screen, the next question is actually printing them on the printer. That should be no problem... Another variation of the REPORT command adds the words "to print" to the command and the report is produced on the printer. This almost works. However, the REPORT command is designed to jump to the top of the next page after so many lines are printed when you say "to print". But mailing labels usually are not printed page by page, they are printed continuously. So at some point the REPORT command would issue a "form feed" (go to the top of the page) control character to the printer and mess up the positioning of the labels as they were printing. So we have to get around that problem. If you have used the REPORT command much you realize that when you display a report on the screen only you never see a "page 2" or more. The REPORT command only issues form feeds when you say "to print". So if we could only print what we are displaying on the screen we could get a continuous printing of labels. Of course, the answer is SET ALTERNATE TO and SET ALTERNATE ON. These commands allow you to give a file name and have whatever is displayed on the screen "echoed" or simultaneously written into that file. So after going through the report definition process shown above you have created a .FRM file which you can use again to make the labels.

For reference here is what the LABELS.FRM file that we created with the dialog shown above looks like:

```
m=1,l=55,w=50
n
y
n
35,trim(FNAME)+'      '+LNAME+';'+ADDRESS+trim(CITY)+',
'+STATE+' '+ZIP+';;;'
```

Again, we show the last line on two lines here to fit the margin, in the .frm file the last line would be one continuous line.

The following set of commands would be used if you had a larger list and you wanted only the records from the state of California and you wanted the list in zip code order:

```
USE MAILLIST
INDEX ON ZIP TO ZIP
```

(If you had already indexed the file you could say: **USE MAILLIST INDEX ZIP**)

```
SET ALTERNATE TO LABELS
SET ALTERNATE ON
REPORT FORM LABELS PLAIN FOR STATE = 'CA'
```

and the labels should be displayed on the screen and written to the file called LABELS.TXT. dBASE II will automatically add the .txt extension to the name which will distinguish it from the LABELS.FRM file.

To print the file which has the continuous labels you would then QUIT to exit dBASE II and use WordStar in the non-document mode to edit out the REPORT command on the first line of the LABELS.TXT and the QUIT and END RUN lines at the end of the file. Then, you would have to use the CP/M TYPE command to print the labels continuously since WordStar will do what the "to print" command does in dBASE II — go to the top of the next page after so many lines are printed. To use CP/M's TYPE command the best technique is to first line up the labels at the appropriate place on the printer then type:

```
A>TYPE B:LABELS.TXT
```

[then <CTRL>P (to turn on the printer) Then hit <cr>]. This would keep the command line "TYPE B:LABELS.TXT" from being printed since it precedes the <ctrl>P). After printing <ctrl>P would turn off the printer output.

By now you probably see why I would agree with the skeptics about using the REPORT command for printing any more than a few labels. In practice using the REPORT command for printing labels has too many drawbacks: It uses too much of disk space if there are very many records in the file since so many intermediate files are created. And it is cumbersome to actually print the labels.

This discussion was intended more to demonstrate some of the capabilities of the REPORT command than it was to suggest that the use of the REPORT command is really practical for printing mailing labels. The techniques which have been summarized show that you can put a lot into a single column with some tricks. This is more useful in conventional report formats where you may have too much data

to fit on one line across the page. Using these techniques you could put several fields into one column including the field names (as "literals" like the spaces and the comma in the above example.

The actual printing of mailing labels is best done using a dBASE II command file which I will leave to other contributors to cover or to a future article. Hopefully, you can use these REPORT techniques and others of your own invention to get the data out of a file in a presentable way suited to the amount of effort you put in to entering the data in the first place.

* * * * * * *

Searching in dBASE II

by Jeffrey Evans

I just discovered, after six months of ownership, that dBASE II will perform the very useful trick of searching within an unindexed datafile for any desired word or string of characters. As this feature is not mentioned where one would expect it in the documentation (I would like to have seen it described somewhere in the section titled "Finding the information You Want"), some ***FOGHORN*** readers may still not know of it.

The ability to search for any word or words within a large datafile is particularly useful when the data is research notes (perhaps you don't remember a title, but you remember the book was published in Cremona, or perhaps you only remember that you had a note somewhere about terrapins). The FIND and LOCATE commands in dBASE II are not much help, because they work only if the sought-for word is the first in the field, or if the field has been indexed for that word.

What you need is the Substring Function, fleetingly mentioned on page B-11 of Ashton-Tate's execrable manual. There are several good ways to use it. The first is the simplest: if you are searching, say, an annotated bibliography named BIBLIO which contains a field named NOTE, you could view all records whose NOTEs contain mention of polymorphism by employing the following commands:

```
USE BIBLIO
DISPLAY ALL FOR 'polymorphism' $ NOTE
```

or, even,

```
DISPLAY ALL FOR 'morph' $ NOTE
```

If, however, you would like to search at once all possibly relevant fields of each record, you may prefer to save some typing by setting up a small command file named SEARCH.CMD, which will prompt you for the desired string and then use Boolean operators to expand the search to two or more fields:

Note: Remember that any line beginning with an "" in dBASE II is a remark line, type those lines in only if you want to have the comments there for future reference. Remarks can make it easier to debug (fix) a program that isn't working but they can also slow down the running of the program. — Gale Rhoades*

```
* This is SEARCH.CMD, perhaps kept on the same disk as the datafile
*
SET DEFA TO B
USE BIBLIO
? 'Enter the word(s) for which you want to search'
? 'Remember that correct spelling counts'
? 'But upper/lower case does not.'
?
ACCEPT ''Words? '' TO w
STORE !(w) TO w
DISPLAY ALL FOR ''&w'' $ (!(author)) .OR. ''&w'' $ (!(titledata)) .OR.
''&w'' $ (!(note))
```

The final step is to organize the screen display so that the information you seek is all visible at once and easy to read. On my (still and probably forever) 52-column Osborne 1 I use the REPORT command in dBASEII to set up a formfile named BIBLIO.FRM, which puts the three fields I want to see into three columns on the screen, each 17 characters wide. dBASEII will wrap fields longer than 17 characters so that everything is neat. Of course, you may choose any field width you want. The final command file looks just like the one above except for the last line, which uses REPORT instead of DISPLAY:

```
REPORT FORM Biblio FOR "&w" $ (!(author)) .OR. "&w" $ (!(titledata))
.OR. "&w" $ (!(note))
```

[Remember that dBASEII commands are terminated by a carriage return. Depending on how this article is printed some of the longer commands above may appear to include a carriage return, but they do not.]

Once the command file SEARCH.CMD and the form file BIBLIO.FRM are resident on your datadisk, you can examine your data simply by booting up dBASEII and entering DO B:SEARCH. If you want a hard copy, the words TO PRINT may be appended to the last command.

* * * * * * *

CRUDE GRAPHICS WITH dBASE II

by Mark Scaramella

Those of you who use SuperCalc are probably familiar with the so-called "graphics" format which you can chose for a range of SuperCalc cells. When you chose this format in SuperCalc, you get a string of asterisks in the particular cell which is as long as the integer value of the cell which you have formatted as "Graphics". As limited as this may be, it is still useful at times. Even though by today's advanced graphics standards, it is stretching a point to consider a bunch of asterisks as "Graphics".

What you may not realize is that you can also do this kind of crude graphics in dBASE II. In some ways it is more flexible than in SuperCalc since you can chose the "Graphics" symbol yourself rather than being stuck with the asterisk (*).

For demonstration purposes, let's say you have a simple dBASE II data file entitled "demo" with only two fields: TITLE and NUMBER. Title is a character field of length 12, and Number is a numeric field of length 2. As dBASE II would say:

```
use demo
display structure
```

```
STRUCTURE FOR FILE:  DEMO.DBF
NUMBER OF RECORDS:   00017
DATE OF LAST UPDATE: 00/00/00
PRIMARY USE DATABASE
FLD       NAME       TYPE WIDTH   DEC
001       TITLE       C    012
002       NUMBER      N    002
** TOTAL **              00015
```

A listing of the data in this file yields some random trivia:

```
list
```

```
00001  Records      23
00002  Tapes         4
00003  Shoes        13
00004  Socks        15
00005  In-laws       7
00006  Siblings      9
00007  Models        3
00008  Articles      6
00009  Rejected      2
00010  Accepted      5
00011  Ignored       7
00012  Hold-overs   13
00013  Unfinished    6
00014  Scrapped      9
00015  Forgotten    26
00016  Back-burner   8
00017  Withdrawn    11
```

cont. on page 38

Now let's say we wanted to get a quick scan of what we had the most and the least of (in the file). We could do this by simply using the list command and asking for a "Graphics" column in the LIST command as shown below. For this example, I am using the colon as the graphics symbol, we could have used any keyboard character. To generate this graphic representation within the LIST command, we will use the substring function of dBASE II: the "$". As you could easily tell from page B11 of your handy dBASE II manual, the SUBSTRING FUNCTION structure is:

$(<char expression>,<start>,<length>)

For this demonstration we will use the following "char expression": ':::::::::::::::::::::::::::::' to be the basis of our "Graphics" output. In addition, we will use the string of colons STARTing in position 1, for a LENGTH of whatever the value of NUMBER field is in each record.

Here goes...

```
list off title,number,$(':::::::::::::::::::::::::::::',1,number)

Records      23 :::::::::::::::::::::::
Tapes         4 ::::
Shoes        13 :::::::::::::
Socks        15 :::::::::::::::
In-laws       7 :::::::
Siblings      9 :::::::::
Models        3 :::
Articles      6 ::::::
Rejected      2 ::
Accepted      5 :::::
Ignored       7 :::::::
Hold-overs   13 :::::::::::::
Unfinished    6 ::::::
Scrapped      9 :::::::::
Forgotten    26 ::::::::::::::::::::::::::
Back-burner   8 ::::::::
Withdrawn    11 ::::::::::
```

The results are immediately apparent: I have forgotten the most and rejected the least, I have a lot of records too.

You should notice here that you can display or list things besides just the data in the fields.

Now let's try the same thing using the REPORT command:

```
report form demo

ENTER OPTIONS, W=LEFT MARGIN, L=LINES/PAGE, W=PAGE WIDTH
m=1,l=55,w=52

PAGE HEADING? (Y/N) y

ENTER PAGE HEADING: dBASE II Graphics Demonstration Report

DOUBLE SPACE REPORT? (Y/N) n

ARE TOTALS REQUIRED? (Y/N) n

COL     WIDTH,CONTENTS
001     12,title

ENTER HEADING: TITLE

002     6,number

ENTER HEADING: NUMBER

003     35,$(':::::::::::::::::::::::::::::',1,number)

ENTER HEADING: GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF NUMBER

004     <cr>
```

and the Report would look like this:

```
PAGE NO. 00001

        dBASE II Graphics Demonstration Report

    TITLE     NUMBER    GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF NUMBER

Records         23 :::::::::::::::::::::::
Tapes            4 ::::
Shoes           13 :::::::::::::
Socks           15 :::::::::::::::
In-laws          7 :::::::
Siblings         9 :::::::::
Models           3 :::
Articles         6 ::::::
Rejected         2 ::
Accepted         5 :::::
Ignored          7 :::::::
Hold-overs      13 :::::::::::::
Unfinished       6 ::::::
Scrapped         9 :::::::::
Forgotten       26 ::::::::::::::::::::::::::
Back-burner      8 ::::::::
Withdrawn       11 ::::::::::
```

This little demonstration is intentionally simple to give you the basic idea.

In actual use of such a display technique you would have to give some thought to how the display was to actually appear. The process known as "scaling" would have to be used so that you didn't try to get "293" represented as 293 colons or asterisks. So you would "scale" the value based on the largest value in the group. Then you would select the number of colons in the substring command to be at least as large as the largest value in your data list. In addition, you could perform a division in the substring command when you use it so that the value would be adjusted to fit the size of the output format that you wanted.

For example, we could have said:

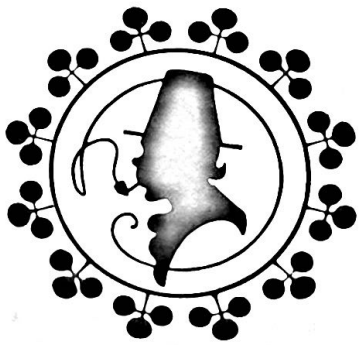
```
list off title, number, $(':::::::::::::::::::::::::::::',1,number/2)
```

which would have made all of the graphical colon displays about half the size of what they were originally.

I am sure that you can think of uses for this "graphics" display technique using your own, obviously more complex, numeric data.

This may be a crude display technique, but it certainly is cheaper than buying one of the commercial graphics programs that use dBASE II, if this simpler output style is all you need. If you need vertical graphs, special labels, true drawn bars (instead of keyboard characters), etc. on your reports/graphs, then I would certainly suggest you obtain a commercial graphics program. I have had a little experience using MBASIC for graphics and I can assure you that it is tedious and occasionally frustrating even though the results can be quite appealing to the eye.

* * * * * * * *



FOG MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

FOG DISK LIBRARY NEWS

by Jim Woolley

When COPYFILE was installed on FOG/UTL.035 last month, the fact that COPYFILE is similar to CPYFIL15 found on FOG/UTL.016 was overlooked.

When CHARGEN, CHECKBAL, and HISNHERS were installed on FOG/APP.031 last month, the fact that these files were created using SuperCalc version 1.12 should have been noted. These files may not be used with SuperCalc version 1.05.

The following information was supplied by Frank R. Dunaway, Jr. of the Long Island Osborne Network (LION):

CALENDR.BAS is an MBasic program by Dennis Lou found on FOG/MIS.010. Upon loading, it will query the user, then will print a calendar for the year requested. NOTE: The algorithm used is accurate for future years through 2099. Apparently, Dennis Lou did not take into account the fact that for years ending in 00, only those evenly divisible by 400 are leap years. Thus, 1900 and 2100 are "common" years and not leap years and the calendars generated for them by the program are erroneous. Few of us in FOG or LION will need to worry about this, but just in case you wanted to know what day of the week California was admitted as a state (September 9, 1850), look it up elsewhere. DON'T USE this program if you want an accurate calendar for 1850 — or for any year prior to 1901 or later than 2099!

Disks introduced this month include FOG/GAM.016, FOG/UTL.036, FOG/APP.032 thru 035, FOG/MIS.016 thru 018, and FOG/HAK.016. Following is a synopsis of DISK.DOC files from each of these new library disks:

FOG/GAM.016

DUCK, contributed by Tim Fox, is a graphics shooting gallery game like that published in the Portable Companion, April/May 1983, p. 42, by Peter H. Kelly. Another version of this game submitted by Ray Rhodes was so similar that it was not included here.

ESCAPE is a tank battle game using screen graphics. PINGPONG, also with graphics, is a pong game. These were provided by Jerry Silverstein.

SLOTS, submitted by Ron Forsythe, simulates a slot machine customized for the Osborne 1. Another version of this game may be found on FOG/GAM.011.

TYPERACE, from Donald Hill, is a typing tutor and horserace game. It is most effective with an 80-column screen.

The following three games were received from Detroit's DeFOG.

GUNNER-2 is a modified version of GUNNER found on FOG/GAM.009. It involves firing a howitzer at a target.

SNOW will randomly fill the screen with letters.

RND-WALK will display a random path of letters.

The above games are MBASIC programs.

FASTLIFE is a faster version of the LIFE games found on FOG/GAM.004 and 010. It uses graphics to simulate birth and death of cells, eventually reaching an equilibrium condition. This assembly language program was provided by Carl Flarity. Its output format is 60 columns by 32 rows.

LIFEASC, submitted by Edward Grant, is a compiled CBASIC version of the LIFE game found on FOG/GAM.004. Starting patterns are input by means of an ASCII file created using a text editor such as WordStar. LIFE1.PAT thru LIFE4.PAT include four sample starting patterns. This program has the ability to chain to DUMP.COM found on FOG/UTL.033 to capture an image of the screen in a file.

This disk was first introduced into the library in preliminary form as FOG/GAM.XXX. It is now complete.

FOG/UTL.036

FILE is an updated version of FILEFIND found on FOG/UTL.016. It will search all drives and users to find files satisfying a command line specification.

PRINTSQ may be used to print a squeezed file without first unsqueezing it. A squeezed file is indicated by the presence of a Q as the second character in filetype (e.g., FILE.AQM).

UNERA15 is an update of UNERA found on FOG/UTL.009. It will recover files which have been previously ERAsed.

FILE, PRINTSQ, and UNERA15 were contributed by Byron McKay. The remaining files were received from Detroit's DeFOG.

IDUMP will display a file in hex and ASCII. Also, see the CP/M DUMP utility and DUMP found on FOG/UTL.006.

Q will display memory in hex and ASCII.

LIST3 is an update of LIST found on FOG/UTL.002. It will display a file on the screen or the printer.

MB-SAVE and WS-SAVE were inspired by the Baldwin and Lopez article on pp. 74 and 75 of the April/May 1983 ***Portable Companion.*** MB-SAVE may be used to recover an MBASIC program which was not SAVEd before terminating MBASIC; similarly, WS-SAVE will recover a WordStar file lost by not using <CTRL-K>S, <CTRL-K>D, or <CTRL-K>X. These programs will even be successful following <RESET>, so long as the AC power has not been interrupted; however, they should be used immediately, without any significant intervening program activity.

MBASAUTO.COM may be substituted for AUTOST.COM to automatically log drive B for your program files before starting MBASIC on drive A.

QWIKKEY will permit definition of up to 16 additional special function keys using any key on the keyboard. Each definition may contain up to 30 characters of any type. The definitions will remain valid until a cold boot or until certain programs are executed.

WRINST was inspired by an article in the Feb/Mar 1983 issue of ***Portable Companion.*** It will take text prepared using WordStar, add line numbers and PRINT statements, and build an MBASIC program to reproduce the text on the screen. The resulting program may be merged into your own program or run by itself.

FOG/APP.032

This disk contains the Apex Toolworks Inc. General Mailing List System. It was developed by Randy Shafer of DeFOG in Detroit as a school project. (I hope he received a good grade.) It requires availability of the dBASE II data base manager.

For similar applications, see FOG on FOG/APP.014 and BYMAIL on FOG/APP.030 and 031.

FOG/APP.033

G/L-USE.DOC describes use of the Osborne/McGraw-Hill General Ledger System found on FOG/APP.001 and 002. G/L0F110.DAT (used with G/L0F130.DAT) contains the generic account file presented in the G/L document by Lon Poole. Since the publisher is no longer printing the G/L document, these files should facilitate getting started with the system. It may still be possible to purchase the document from Vandata in Seattle, Washington.

NETWORTH is a SuperCalc spreadsheet to aid with personal net worth analysis. It may be useful when applying for a loan. NETBLANK is a template without sample data. SMBUS is a SuperCalc spreadsheet for small business general ledger application. Related templates may be found on FOG/APP.012.

SW80 and SW104 are 80 and 104 column versions of SCDESIGN found on FOG/APP.014. They permit interactive design of a screen display using graphic and ASCII characters, then build an MBASIC

cont. on page 40

program to recreate the display.

All these files were received from Detroit's DeFOG.

FOG/APP.034

This disk contains applications requiring access to dBASE II.

The following files were received from Rick Schmidt of Federal Way, Washington.

UGRAPH will display on the screen point or bar graphs of data contained in a DBF file. DEMGRAPH will demonstrate UGRAPH.

SQRT will calculate the square root of a number. This procedure may be incorporated into your own dBASE applications.

The remaining files, received from Detroit's DeFOG, make up the DeFOG membership and mailing list database management system. This system assumes an NEC matrix printer, but could be modified for other printers. For similar applications, see FOG on FOG/APP.014, BYMAIL on FOG/APP.030 and 031, and the Apex Toolworks Mailing List System on FOG/APP.032.

FOG/APP.035

3DGRAPH is from William Burkett's article on pp. 44 and 45 of the 6/83 issue of ***Portable Companion***. It will display a 3D bargraph on the screen using interactive data input. This program was received from Detroit's DeFOG.

Also received from DeFOG, 1040ES, CALCTAX, and SCHEDG are SuperCalc templates to aid income tax calculations. They may require updating for use during 1984. Also, see similar SuperCalc applications on FOG/APP.015, 020, and 022.

SCTOVC and VCTOSC will convert a SuperCalc spreadsheet into a VisiCalc spreadsheet or vice versa. These programs, submitted by Paul Bullock, are specifically for those who have SuperCalc version 1.12 with the eXecute command, and also use VisiCalc, and do not have SuperData Interchange.

LABELPRT is a dBASE II application for printing mailing labels. A specific database file structure is assumed. For similar applications, see FOG on FOG/APP.014, BYMAIL on FOG/APP.030 and 031, the Apex Toolworks Mailing List System on FOG/APP.032, and the DeFOG system on FOG/APP.034.

FOG/MIS.016

NEW-CHIP.CPK is a conversation regarding computer design using a Z800 CPU chip.

RCPMDATA.17A describes etiquette when using a remote CP/M (RCP/M) system.

The above files were received from the Denver Osborne Group (DOG).

SILVER2.DOC, contributed by Jerry Silverstein, is a tutorial describing use of the CP/M utilities PIP and STAT.

The following files were contributed by Byron McKay.

MBASIC-P.DOC describes how to POKE an address in MBASIC, so that a file saved with the protect attribute (SAVE "filename",P) may be converted to unprotected mode.

WORDSTAR.DOC identifies patch locations in WordStar and recommends modifications for Epson printers. Similarly, WS-EPSON.DOC describes patches for use of WordStar with an Epson.

The following files were received from Detroit's DeFOG.

FORTRAN.TXT is a review of the Nevada FORTRAN system.

PASCAL.TXT is a comment on the JRT Pascal system.

NECGRPH.BAS is an MBASIC program to print a matrix of characters created by an NEC 8023A (or compatible) matrix printer in response to decimal ASCII values received. It illustrates, for example, what symbols result from LPRINT CHR$(x) statements in an MBASIC program.

The following files were submitted by (I believe) C. Nordaker of DeMoines, Iowa.

BREAKKEY.DOC describes hardware additions to the Osborne 1 modem and RS232 interfaces to implement a break key.

WYLBUR.DOC describes use of OTERM4 found on FOG/UTL.018 with a mainframe Wylbur system. EXAMPLE.WYL is an example Wylbur session. FUNCTION.KEY is an extended function key definition file for use with OTERM4 when communicating with a Wylbur system.

FOG/MIS.017

Three 1984 calendars were contributed by Frank Dunaway of the Long Island Osborne Network (LION). CAL.84 is a one page calendar with 1984 in large block letters. LIONCAL.84 and PINUPCAL.84 add a second page with snoopy and a pinup respectively.

The remaining files were received from Rick Schmidt of Federal Way, Washington.

AREACODE will display the geographical region represented by a given telephone area code.

DBASE2.TIP describes use of the dBASE II CALL statement, which is not fully documented in all of the Ashton-Tate manuals. DBHINTS.DOC provides additional information about dBASE II.

The remaining files illustrate certain features of dBASE II.

ASCIIDEC will convert an ASCII string to a string of decimal equivalents of each character, separated by commas.

DBDIR illustrates use of CALL to execute an assembly language routine previously loaded into memory. It will display a disk directory on the screen. ASCIIDEC is used by DBDIR.

FORM prints a form describing the structure of a specified database file.

POKE1 demonstrates use of POKE and PEEK.

SHOWMEM uses PEEK to display specified areas of memory.

FOG/MIS.018

The following files were submitted from Gobind Khalsa of Liverpool, NY.

BARCODE will generate Universal Product Code A barcode using an Epson with Graftrax. Refer to BARCODE.DOC.

PLOT will display converted TRS-80 block graphics plots on an Osborne 1 screen. Refer to PLOT.DOC.

UNPROTEC.DOC describes a procedure for unprotecting an MBASIC file saved using SAVE"filename",P. Also, see MBASIC-P found on FOG/MIS.016.

The following files were received from Rick Schmidt of Federal Way, Washington.

CBASIC.HLP describes use of CBASIC. MBASIC.HLP describes use of MBASIC. WS.HLP describes use of WordStar. XMODEM.HLP describes use of the XMODEM program typically found on remote CP/M (RCP/M) systems. Each of these files is intended for use with the HELP program found on FOG/UTL.005.

ZCPR2TEZ.DOC describes the console command processor (CCP) replacement ZCPR2 found on FOG/UTL.035.

FOG/HAK.016

The following files were received from Rick Schmidt of Federal Way, Washington.

BBSCON2 is similar to BYE, which is often used by remote CP/M (RCP/M) systems. This is an assembly language file.

ODBS is an MBASIC Osborne data base system which needs some work.

SPELL-OS is an Osborne version of the poor man's spelling checker. SPELL-ED is designed to work with SPELL-OS. I can't understand how to use these programs. SPELLM21 found on FOG/APP.023 seems to work better.

YAM is an Osborne 1 version of Yet Another Modem program. It seems to work OK, but there is no documentation. Will anyone with a YAM document please donate a copy?

That completes the synopsis of new library disks introduced during the month of January.

* * * * * * * *

EXECUTIVE LIBRARY NOTES
MARCH 1984

by Jim Switz

This month, I'll lead off with a few Exec tips for those of you who may not have discovered these things on your own:

1) There are a few hidden keys on your Executive keyboard; some of you may have wondered why Osborne "left off" a few of the standard ASCII characters. Two are fairly esoteric, but two others are absolutely essential to those of us who program in the C language. All these characters are in the same places on the Osborne 1, and can be found by holding down the CONTROL key and pressing the appropriate key below:

To get:	Press this key:	
`	= (equal)	produces a backwards single quote
~	/ (slash)	produces a tilde
{	, (comma)	produces a left curly brace
}	. (period)	produces a right curly brace

2) To boot up on the B: drive, and logically switch the drives (i.e. the computer thinks that A is B and vice versa) press the Tab key instead of Return when you boot up a disk. This is only a curiosity, unless your A drive quits, and you must still use your computer, if only with one drive.
3) To repeat the test mode which comes on when you turn on your Exec, press the T key instead of Return; the only way to stop this endless cycle is to press Reset.
4) Overlays created on SuperCalc 1 will load and run just fine on SuperCalc 2, however the reverse is not true (the same goes for version numbers of the same program; lower versions will run on higher versions, but not vice versa). Therefore, if at all possible, SuperCalc submissions should be created using SuperCalc 1, so that those who have not upgraded to SC2 will be able to use your contribution. If you must use SC2 because of its' increased capabilities, please note that fact on your submission; if I test it using SC2, I can't tell if it was created on SC1 or SC2.
5) As long as we're on the subject of SuperCalc, several people have reported to me that the SuperCalc 1 INSTALLS file does not work correctly. When modifications to printer width or border characters are made, the INSTALLS program does not save these modifications to disk. The SuperCalc 2 INSTALLS program will correctly install SuperCalc 1, however.
6) For about a month, I've been using a nifty trick to extend the useful life of my printer ribbons. As librarian, I print a LOT of pages, and ribbon use is incredible. Gale Rhoades and Frank Morton, who are experts on this technique, explained that a light shot of WD-40 lubricant (from any hardware store) on the ribbon will rejuvenate it nicely. As it happens, ribbons dry out long before they are out of ink, and the WD- 40 relubricates the ink, permitting ribbon reuse. To use this technique, just pry off the top of the ribbon (carefully!), and lightly, but evenly, spray the WD-40 on just enough to wet the ribbon. Let the ribbon sit out a few hours or overnight, and replace the top. It will take practice to apply it evenly and not too heavily; running a few sheets of test pattern generally evens the printing quality out. I've been able to reuse a ribbon up to 5 times before it finally died.

   I've seen advertisements for ribbon re-inking devices; if anyone has used one of these, please write me and share your experiences so that we can share them with all the members.

I've been taking a class in the C programming class lately, and am enjoying it quite a bit. It's a far cry from the "ancient" BASIC and FORTRAN I learned 15 years ago, seems to be useful for all sorts of stuff, except scientific number-crunching (no exponentiation or logarithmic functions), and is fast. One of the main reasons I decided to learn C is all the software appearing out there which is written in C, including the Unix operating system. Library submissions written in C are also starting to come in, and I want to be knowledgeable in my work with them. I'm using both the Aztec and BDS C compilers, for those of you considering submissions written in C. For anyone looking for a modern language to learn, I can certainly recommend C (the August 83 issue of BYTE magazine was devoted to it). To all the FORTH fanatics out there preparing to throw brickbats at me, that's next on my list of languages to learn someday (I understand FORTH is not just a programming language, it's a religion!).

Once again, I'll give my address and phone number, for those of you who wish to correspond with me directly, or submit things for the library (I have a 300 baud modem):

2435 Tamalpais St. Mountain View, CA 94043

(415)968-3356 (before 10pm Pacific time, please, if possible)

The mail is already backing up a bit; I promise to reply to all correspondence, but it might take a few days. If it's urgent, please mark it as such.

I appreciate all the submissions you've been sending in (keep 'em coming); this month 5 new disks have been added to the Executive Library:

-FOG/EX1.006

Note: Files marked with an asterisk (*) have been gathered from the Piconet RCPM in Mountain View, CA; Byron McKay, sysop. Thanks to both for their efforts.

CASHFLW is a SuperCalc template used to estimate actual net cash flow from rental property, and was submitted by Tony Hoffman of San Jose. See the file CASHFLW.DOC for instructions.

CHEMXMAS.POE* is a little Christmas poem which may be amusing to you chemists out there; unfortunately it's a little late for this past season. It's in ASCII text format, and may be read using Wordstar or the CP/M TYPE command.

DU-V86* is a recent version of the Disk Utility (DU); unlike previous versions, this one works just fine under CP/M 3.0 on the Exec. DU allows one to examine and/or change any byte, sector or track on a disk; an immediate application which leaps to mind is the recovery of accidentally erased files. It's one of those programs you may not use often, but when you need it, you REALLY need it. See the two excellent articles by Doug Hurst on the use of DU in the Sept/Oct 83 issues of the FOGHORN. Documentation is provided in the squeezed file DU-V86.DQC. The squeezed source code, DU-V86.AQM, is provided for those who may wish to examine or modify the operation of DU.

LU3*, by Gary Novosielski, is the latest version of the library utility, LU, with a couple of functions added, including the ability to rename library member files. This is an update to LU111 on -FOG/EX1.003. See the files LU300.IQF and LU300.DQC for detailed documentation.

MAGE31* is an update of MAGE, originally by Chris and Steve Rudek, which has been reworked by Ted Silveira. MAGE is designed to recover Wordstar text in memory which has been lost due to disk full errors, accidental RESETs, or just about any disaster short of power loss. I've modified this version for the Executive; the squeezed source code, MAGE31.AQM, is included for those who may wish to install it on other systems (instructions on how to do so are in the beginning paragraphs of the ASM file). To run the program, exit Wordstar and type:

A>MAGE31 d:SAVED.TXT<cr>

where d: is the drive to which you wish the saved text to go, and SAVED.TXT is the name of the file to contain the recovered text (SAVED.TXT is an example, you can use any filename you wish). Typing MAGE31<ret> with no filename will call up a short instruction summary of how to use MAGE.

NSWP199H*, by Dave Rand, is a version of NSWEEP which works (for the most part) on the Exec. This program performs all functions of SWEEP38 (see --FOG.EX1.002) with a few new functions, but best of all only requires 8K of disk space instead of 28K. New functions

cont. on page 42

added include the ability to print text files, and a page mode to view text files, with line-at-a-time or page-at-a-time scrolling of text. Text files may also be either squeezed or unsqueezed for viewing or printing; the program automatically detects and correctly handles squeezed files. A few functions do not appear to work correctly, however. These include disk space remaining (just ignore this), the Y command to set file status bits, and the ability to permanently squeeze or unsqueeze files to disk. These defects are fairly minor, however; the improved capabilities and much reduced disk space required merit it's inclusion in the library. No functions provided by SWEEP38 have been eliminated, and when a version with all new functions implemented is available, it will be placed into the library.

OTHELLO.COM is a compiled version of the OTHELLO.BAS board game, which is on -FOG/EX1.003, and as such does not require MBASIC to be loaded first, and runs about 5 times faster than the old version. It's included both for those who got bored with the somewhat slow operation of the interpreted version, as well as to illustrate the operational difference between the same BASIC program running in both interpreted and compiled versions. To use, simple type:

A>**OTHELLO**<cr>

RCPM-045.LQT* is a squeezed text file listing many Remote Bulletin Board Systems (RBBS) and Remote CP/M (RCPM) systems around the country. It may be unsqueezed first and printed with Wordstar, or may be printed directly with no unsqueezing by using NSWP199H (see above).

TAXSHLTR is a SuperCalc overlay which computes the tax benefits from a particular piece of real estate, and was submitted by Tony Hoffman. The same program also automatically computes the rates of return from cash flow, equity build-up, and appreciation, and gives a total return on invested cash. See the file TAXSHLTR.DOC for detailed information.

-FOG/EX1.007 through **-FOG/EX1.009**

This is a three-disk set containing the JRT Pascal language compiler, version 3.0. This system has been released into the public domain during January 1984.

-FOG/EX1.007 contains the manual for the system, which is in three parts: JRTMAN1.LBR, JRTMAN2.LBR, and JRTMAN3.LBR. These consist of the various manual chapters, which have been squeezed and then combined into libraries. Note that this manual is not a tutorial on Pascal for beginners; one should seek out other books for basic instruction. To restore the original text for printing, perform the following on each part:

First, copy one .LBR file to a blank disk using PIP or SWEEP.
Second, put the copy into drive B, and log to B, getting the B> prompt.
Third, put a disk containing DELBR.COM (see -FOG/EX1.003) into drive A,
and type:
B>**A:DELBR JRTMANx.LBR**<cr> where x is the number of the .LBR file.

This will extract all the files from the library. Now, to make room on the disk, ERAse the .LBR file from the B drive. To unsqueeze the files for printing with Wordstar, put a disk containing USQ-19 (see -FOG/EX1.002) into drive A and type:

B>**A:USQ-19 *.***<cr>

Finally, to clean out all the squeezed files, type:

B>**ERA *.?Q?**<cr>

This results in a disk full of unsqueezed files, which should be printed (using Wordstar) in order to recreate the manual.

After printing each .LBR file, erase all files and repeat the above for the other .LBR files.

Note: When all files are de-librariied and unsqueezed, the total page count to be printed is 200, so be prepared for lots of printer usage.

See the file JRTMAN.INF on this disk for introductory material.

Credit is hereby given to Merle Schnick of the Pacific Northwest Heath Users Group (Seattle), for transcribing the manual to disk, to Rob Mages of Union City for modifying the manual to Wordstar format, and to Mr. J.R. Tyson of JRT Systems for developing the compiler and releasing it to the public domain. Thanks guys!

-FOG/EX1.008 and -FOG/EX1.009 contain the various files necessary to use the compiler. The manual contains information on the use of these files.

-FOG/EX1.010

Note: All files on this disk were submitted to the FOG RCPM (415-755-2030)

FANCFONT is a collection of sample files to demonstrate the operation of the FancyFont "typesetting" program. The FancyFont program is proprietary, but the publisher has created this demo for the public domain. It is designed to work with the Epson MX (with Graftrax) or FX or Gemini printers. My Mannesmann Tally will print most things on the files, so I think that the files work, but without an Epson, I can't be sure. It's interesting, I guess, to see what can be done with FancyFont. Use DELBR (see -FOG/EX1.003) and USQ (see -FOG/EX1.002) to extract and unsqueeze these files. FANCFONT.DOC explains how to run the program.

GB is a teacher's gradebook program to keep track of classes, assignments, students and grades over the course of a school year, and was written by Steve Strommen. It appears to be very complete, and since it is compiled, runs fast. The source code (in S-BASIC) is supplied in GRADEBOK.BAS, and instructions may be found in GB.DOC.

GUSHER is a game which kept me up late the first time I played it! Unfortunately, no credit is given, but references are made to Balcones and Xerox. The point is to find and develop an oil field, attempting to make a profit rather than going bankrupt, with pretty good graphics. No instructions are provided, but typing a zero will call up the list of commands. I figured it out by playing; it's not very hard to catch on to. (Hint: take out a couple of loans, and buy some equipment first.) Watch out for various disasters, which appear unexpectedly (another hint: switching cash to/from CD's can minimize the losses from these disasters). The game is compiled, and runs very fast. To play, simply type GUSHER<cr>; allow plenty of time to play, it's fun!

MANDALA is a BASIC program which creates a mandala. What's a mandala, you ask? Good question. My dictionary defines it as "1: a Hindu or Buddhist graphic symbol of the universe, specifically a circle enclosing a square with a deity on each side. 2: a graphic and often symbolic pattern usually in the form of a circle divided into four separate sections or bearing a multiple projection of an image." Satisfied?; I still haven't quite figured it all out, but it does seem to work, and makes pretty patterns.

OSSARGON is an adaptation of the Sargon chess game, originally written by Kathe and Don Spracklen. It provides an on-screen representation of the board, but has some bugs in the "enter piece" mode, if you try to create a situation to solve. See the documentation file OSSARGON.DOC.

RENUM, by Pavel Breder and originally called MDM703CL, allows you to change the phone number list in either the "smart" or "dumb" versions of MODEM. It is menu-driven and easy to use; I checked it out on MODEM712, and it works great, much easier than editing and recompiling NUMBERS.ASM. Instructions will appear if you type "RENUM<cr>".

REPEAT is a BASIC memory-testing game by Jim Gerritz, originally written for the TRS-80. Several levels of skill are available, and some documentation can be found by listing the program under BASIC. To play, load MBASIC, then load REPEAT, and RUN it.

SCRIPT, written by Ken Stella, is designed to take advantage of the programmable character set of the Executive. When loaded into the system tracks, SCRIPT will allow script characters to appear on the screen. Instructions on how to do this are in the file SCRIPT.DOC

TPA is a quick programmer's utility to determine the amount of Transient Program Area memory available in a CP/M system. To use, type "TPA<cr>" at the prompt.

See you next month; keep those cards and letters (and disks) coming!

* * * * * * *

EXECUTIVE

At Last!

by Gale Rhoades

Here at last is the start of a column devoted specifically to the Osborne Executive. The listing of the new discs will continue to be carried in the **FOG MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS** column.

As always, we will continue to open new columns just as soon as it is apparent that there is sufficient submissions to support the column — So let's see some submissions from all you Morrow, KayPro, Zorba, etc owners...there are a lot of you in the FOG!

* * * * * * *

EXECUTIVE BUGS

by Jim Switz

There you are, the proud owner of a new Osborne Executive, a little woozy from finally getting your printer hooked up correctly; it is now scratching away nicely printing out your first test file. Suddenly, everything comes to a halt, and the screen displays:

```
BIOS error device PRNTR not ready, unassign this device (Y or N)?
```

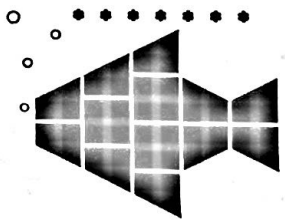
Holy Smoke!, it was ready a minute ago when printing. You wonder what happened, and possibly spend hours trying to get the thing going again. Well, don't fret too much, this is but one real bug found so far in the Executive. The purpose of this article is to at least make you aware of some problems found, and offer some partial or complete fixes to several of them.

1. The printer problem above results from an error in the Osborne implementation of the CP/M 3.0 BIOS (if you don't understand the cryptic letters, don't worry, you don't have to). Basically, the computer is ignoring the signal sent from the printer telling the computer to stop sending characters for a while because the printer is temporarily full. The Exec keeps trying to send characters, which results in its' thinking that the printer is not ready. The problem has been found and corrected within Osborne, but the recent financial/legal problems have stalled its' release. The best information at this time is that the fix will be sent Real Soon Now (to swipe a phrase from BYTE's Jerry Pournelle). However, there are some temporary fixes which you can implement to get around the problem for now:
   a) First make sure, using the SETUP program, that only one printer port is activated, either serial or parallel, whichever your printer needs. Confirm that the unused port has "no device" selected. On a few printers, I've heard that this fixes the problem, but don't get your hopes up.
   b) Second, if using a serial printer, select a 300 baud transmission rate. This will fix the problem (it only happens above 300 baud), but is admittedly slow. However, it's better than nothing, right?
   c) If using a parallel printer or want to run serial above 300 baud, I'm afraid that answering "N" to the ominous question above is the only way around the problem, if you have a small printer buffer capacity. You have to stay with the machine, continually entering N's, but it will work.
   d) Lastly, you can install an in-line buffer between your printer and computer. The problem with the computer will not occur until whatever buffer (either in the printer or external) fills up, so if you use a large buffer, chances are you won't fill it often, which will mask the problem. In fact, that is exactly my situation. I bought a 64K buffer with my computer, as I saw lots of advantages to having one. For one thing, I send from my computer to the buffer at 19200 baud (almost 2000 characters/second!), which then talks to my printer at 1200 baud. This frees my computer for other things while the printer works away. Using PIP to send text files (with the LST: option) is the fastest way; for example, I can send the 39K MODEM712 file to the buffer in less than 30 seconds, and the printer then works for about 20 minutes printing it out. I wasn't even aware of this Exec port problem until someone told me about it, because I never filled the 64K capacity of my buffer.
2. Two MBASIC graphics character strings (9 and 27) are ignored when executed. This resulted in the OTHELLO.BAS program not working correctly, for example. Osborne was informed of this problem last fall, but I haven't heard of a fix. It's relatively easy to get around, however; just substitute CHR$(137) for CHR$(9) and CHR$(155) for CHR$(27). See my test file GRAFTEST.BAS on -FOG/EX1.003 for complete information. By the way, the OTHELLO.BAS program is on -FOG/EX1.003 disk in a patched and working condition.
3. The external video port has problems displaying the dim video characters well. The fix for this involves changing a resistor on the motherboard; not difficult, but also not a project to learn soldering on. I've written an article for the FOGHORN on this fix, with details on how to do it. It worked fine for me.
4. You may notice a slight jitter in the display of your Exec. This bugged me, and so I tore the machine apart (again), and using an oscilloscope and some common sense, found that the problem seems to be a result of some transistors in the fan used in the machine. If you temporarily disconnect the fan, the problem disappears. My electrical engineering friends at work say that a large capacitor across the fan wires would probably fix this jitter, but I haven't had time to mess with it yet. If someone cares to attack this problem, please let me know how it goes; otherwise I'll document whatever I do eventually.

Note: 3 and 4 above involve machine disassembly. It's not a big deal to do, but you may blow your warranty if a fix-it type finds out about it. There are no internal seals, however, so disassembly by the merely curious is undetectable if done carefully. I really don't recommend opening your machine under a short-term warranty, but I don't think I'd have the patience to wait two years (under Xerox Americare) to have a peek inside.

5. My DATE function runs the clock about 3 seconds/hour fast. I don't use this function, and don't worry about it, but if anyone has a fix, I'll pass it along.

Anyone wanting to correspond can contact me at (415) 968-3356, before 10 pm Pacific time please, or you can write to 2435 Tamalpais St. Mountain View, CA 94043.



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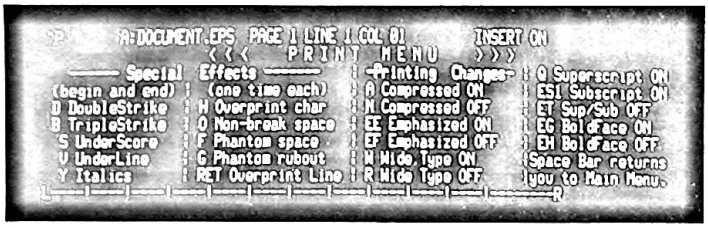

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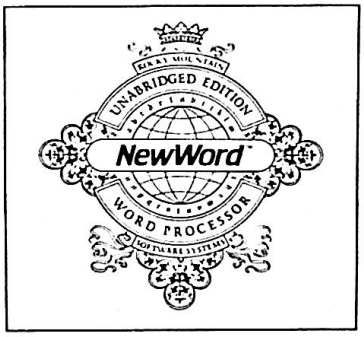

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We also have information about many other groups throughout the world. Any person sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a description of their geographic area will be given the name(s) and address(es) of the group(s) nearest them. If you know of a group that may not be listed with FOG, please send any details available to you. We would like to know the names and addresses of the officers; time, date, and place of meetings; contact phone numbers; and any other details that will assist us in referring others to the group.

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68. **San Mateo Osborne Group (SMOG²)**
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HELP cont.

Benjamin Cohen, President of Chicago's First Osborne Group, writes with a few solutions. With respect to changing formats within a WordStar document, he has a rather clever idea. Specifically, suppose you have different text files, each of which needs different margin settings (or different margin settings within the same file) as Hanns Trostli needed a few months ago. Well, start by creating a comment line (beginning with a dot in the left margin). Fill the comment line with hyphens, exclamation points, pound symbols and whatever else might be appropriate in a ruler line and end it with a capital "R" at the right margin. When you put the cursor at this line and hit a ^OF, you'll get a ruler line to match. Now you can scatter these lines throughout your files and change format as you go.

Next, Mr. Cohen has a solution to a problem thSt wasn't brought up here, but elsewhere in a previous ***FOGHORN***. There was a question about a blinking cursor in WordStar for DD. He's mailing a program to patch for this, WSPTCHDD.COM, to the FOG Library (from thO Chicago FOG Library). Apparently it will allow you to patch WordStar to give you a blinking cursor with variable speed settings from 1 to 9. Whomever asked the question originally can probably find this patch program in the FOG library by the time he/she reads this.

Both Mr. Cohen and our next solution contributor from Daybreak Productions in Vancouver Canada (sorry, I couldn't make out the name) had the solution to the mysterious .PL 13 to get a one line page problem in WordStar. That is, if you set your page length to 20, you'll only get 20-11 = 9 printed lines on the page. It turns out there are two more parameters, margin top and margin bottom which have default values of 3 and 8 respectively. Note how these add up to the familiar 11 offset. If you set both of these to 0 with .MT and .MB, your .PL command will work as expected.

Our Daybreak Productions person also prefers writing directly to memory in MBASIC to do screen manipulations (the top 4K of RAM), instead of my use of CP/M's write character function. This gives you immediate access to all ascii codes and all 32 graphics characters. I suppose that either way will work, and poking directly is probably a bit faster. I still recommend that whichever method you use, you create a function to do it. This way you can alter your screen addressing method if you move your software to another machine.

His next solution is for the unwanted formfeed that WordStar throws in after finishing a print. One (admittedly messy) way around this is to use PIP to create a copy of your text file with PIP's [Z] option. This strips off WordStar's embedded special codes. Next you TYPE it using the ^P option to get it to your printer. The printing will stop when TYPE runs out of text. Unfortunately, printer control codes are lost this way and you'll print over perforations unless your printer does this automatically.

Finally, to get foreign language accents printed, try the backspace command along with a super or subscript command. For example, (character)^PH^PT(accent character)^PT for accents over characters and (character)^PH^PV(accent character)^PV for those under existing characters. [*Remember though that the way you have installed your printer to access the sub/super script could change the print control codes used for this — Gale Rhoades*]

New Problems

Our first question this month comes from Leigh Robinson. He has both a 52 column machine and an 80 column machine. When he creates SuperCalc files on the 52 column machine, everything works fine. If he tries to use those same files on his 80 column machine (in

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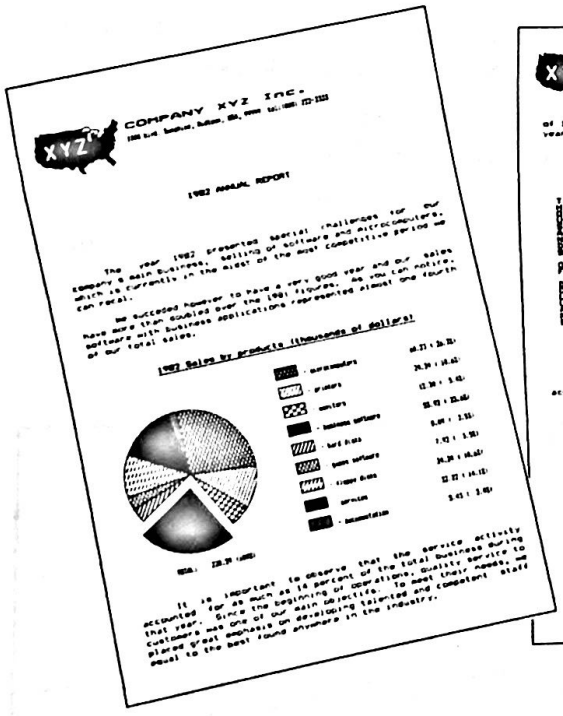

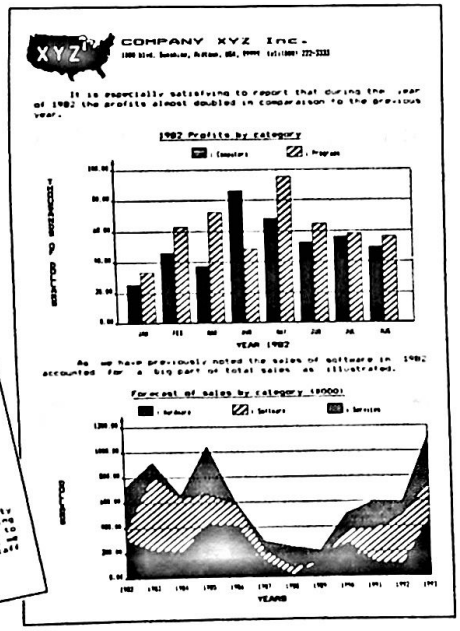

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80 column mode), SuperCalc runs fine, except it only displays 52 columns worth of data on the screen. Does anyone know if there's a switch in SuperCalc (either the program or its datafiles) which determines how many columns of data should actually be displayed?

[*Does this mean that files created on the 80 column machine more columns than those files created on the 52 column machine, OR could it be that Leigh just needs to call INSTALLS.COM and change the screen width of the SC that belongs to his 80 column Osborne? My 80 column 0-1 is in the shop, so I can't try it myself. David*]

Next, a request from Harry Seimens of Manatoba, Canada. It seems he bought some software for his Osborne from a company called Honor Systems Software in Mesa, Arizona. Unfortunately they sent him a disk formatted for a different machine. When he tried calling them about the problem, he found their phone disconnected. Does anyone out there know the whereabouts of Honor Systems Software? Or failing that, has anyone purchased their software so we could possibly get Mr. Seimens a workable copy of the software he paid for?

Bruce Morasch called about problems he's having with his 80 column video board. It seems that some of the characters he types on the keyboard show up as different characters on the screen. Unfortunately, this is a little different than the problem I had a few months ago. My problem was that from time to time the screen would entirely fill with reverse video characters. Most annoying because it would cause me to lose whatever I was doing. Even more annoying was when the keyboard stopped doing anything. No more boots, no nothing. It turns out my problem was solved in the shop by simply reconnecting the 80 column board to where it had worked its way loose. Mr. Morasch's problem sounds more like something in ROM (the character translations) or possibly a frayed wire in the lead from the keyboard.

Next is Mark Finley from Austin, Texas who has a hardware peripheral question. There are a number of cooling fans advertised for the Osborne 1 and Mark wants to know if anyone is particularly satisfied or dissatisfied with their purchase. This sounds like a wonderful topic for a separate article, although I'd be glad to print any individual experiences otheVreaders might mail in. Personally, I don't have a fan for my Osborne and have not had any cooling problems to date. However, I do not use my machine for more than a couple hours at a time.

Our solutions person from Daybreak Productions (see above) also had a question about why WordStar didn't list the files on his WordStar disk in alphabetical order on the main screen directory. I think you'll notice that the files are listed alphabetically, however they are first grouped by file type. The file types don't seem to be in alphabetical order. I'd be interested to know what order file types are sorted in.

Next, Paul Crookshank from Middlesex, N Y is having a familiar problem with his Supercalc2 equipped Osborne 1 with the Epson MX 80. His setup print mode is compressed. Every so often, he wants to return to normal print mode. Following the manual's instructions, he does a /Output,Display,Range,Setup,S (for manual printer modes), and then a <CR> to take the Epson back to default type mode. Unfortunately, this doesn't do it. He's also tried <CR>R, but in all cases the installed setup seems to take precedence. Any ideas out there? [*By <CR> does he mean to indicate CONTROL, i.e. ^ ?*]
[*Two thoughts occurred to me as I was coding this for the typesetter — 1)For my Epsons, I use the ^O (control O) as the manual setup and 2)If you want to print all the SuperCalc spreadsheets in condensed, use INSTALLS.COM to change the printer initialization string. By entering 0f (hex) as the initialization string for a copy of SuperCalc I call SCSMALL.COM, everything I print using that version is printed in the condensed mode. — Gale Rhoades*]

Finally, Ernest Thiersch of Deltona, Florida is having some trouble adapting an old BASIC program to MBASIC. His old BASIC had a function called DSKF(DD) which returned the number of 1024K byte records still free on disk drive DD. Unfortunately, I don't know of any comparable MBASIC function. I suppose this information might be available if you start POKING around CP/M's memory resident file structure, but we'll have to wait for someone to write in with that solution.

Ernest is also having trouble with MBASIC's FRE function which apparently isn't working the same as in his previous BASIC. He has an expression (FRE(FL$)-200)/9 which returns a value of 2806. According to the manual, FRE returns the amount of dynamic memory available in bytes. The documentation doesn't bother to mention what the input parameter to FRE controls. Can someone write in with a better explanation of the FRE function and its parameter?

An interesting aside comes to mind regarding the FRE function. The garbage collection problem mentioned earlier in MBASIC causes a program to stop every so often and reorganize its FREe dynamic space. This makes for rather awkward delays in your programs. The documentation to FRE also indicates that when you call FRE, it forces this garbage collection to occur, whether or not it is needed at that time. Why not use FRE at appropriate points in your program (eg. right after a disk access) so that garbage collection won't be needed automatically at inopportune times (like in the middle of inputting a string). I assume also that if you force a free on a more frequent basis, it won't take as much time since it doesn't have as much garbage to collect.

That concludes this month's column. Keep those cards and letters coming.

* * * * * * *

SYSTEM NOTES *cont.*

There is a bug in making columns which requires that one blank line appear after the page offset dot commands on any page except the first one. Otherwise the first line prints before the page offset takes effect. Which means that one line on top would print in the wrong place. But putting a carriage return after the .PO 68 (or .PO 8) fixes up the page offsetting.

After editing is complete, leave WordStar and set up your physical linespacing by communicating with the printer through CP/M's ^P facility. Then come back into WordStar and print, specifying that printing will be one page at a time. As printing commences, go on about your other business such as editing another file (which could be a further piece of the same general subject matter). When the first column is completed printing, WordStar will pause for the expected paper change. Just reload the same piece of paper and let the second "page" print down the right side of the paper.

Pages printed as described can be read quite easily (put on your glasses, that print is small) and still have quite a bit of attractive white space to break up the page. It helps guide the eye if you double space between paragraphs and triple space between sections. If you really want to cram, set text margins at 65 for entry, then alternatively offset pages to 0 (no left margin) and 67 (quite close to the left column). This gets the informational equivalent of eight double-spaced manuscript pages onto one page of fine print.

There is one little bug left that you may want to defeat if you are a stickler for neatness. After you have used ^P to communicate with the printer, and use ^P again to break the connection, there is a CP/M "A>" prompt left over in the print buffer. When you initiate printing, that bothersome little sucker prints at the top of your document. The kludgy way I get around this is to start and abort a phoney print before I load the paper I am going to really print on. I print to a piece of scrap paper and as soon as the one prompt line gets printed I cancel further printing by hitting the P key. Then I go ahead with the real printing job.

There are simple programs which avoid this bug and will allow you to set the linespacing on the Epson even closer. I believe Pat Watters of the East Bay FOG has submitted an MBASIC program to the library which will let you select up to 16 lines per inch. That is the

cont. on page 51

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papersaving mode! I have seen Bob Hebert's Epson compressed character superscript output at 16 lines per inch and it is still very legible, making that an economical way to save data in print form. My thanks to Pat and Bob for the inspiration to claw out this simplified method of fine print.

Even in the computer age, it is still sometimes more convenient to stash information on paper for quick access rather than file on disk. With this simple method you can print an existing text file to test whether the Epson's fine print output will be useful to you. If you haven't tried it yet, you will be pleasantly surprised at the clarity of the tiny print when full text is printed in the Epson compressed superscript font.

* * * * * * *

Blink *cont.*

```
;**************************************
;*            ''WSPATCH''             *
;*        LEE SWORDY   12/5/82        *
;* Revised by Jim Woolley, FOG Disk   *
;* Librarian, 9/82                    *
;* Revised by Scott Stockton for MD-20 *
;* HD & Rev. 1.4x BIOS with DD and 80 *
;* col upgrade. 7/83                  *
;* (NOTE: This will work with any     *
;*        1.4x rom. All BIOS and BDOS *
;*        calls have been made        *
;*        relative.                   *
;*                                    *
;**************************************

;
FCB         EQU 5CH             ; DEFAULT FILE CTRL BLOCK
BDOS        EQU 0005H           ; BDOS JUMP POINT
BIOS        EQU 0E100H          ; LOCATION OF BIOS FOR REV. 1.4X
DIVERT1     EQU 1D33H           ; DIVERSION FROM WS CONSOLE I/P
                                ROUTINE
DIVERT2     EQU 0100H           ; DIVERSION FROM WS START-UP ROU-
                                TINE
                                ; divert2 will not be used
inisub      equ 02a4h           ; instead use ws inisub location
PATCHSP     EQU 02E0H           ; WORDSTAR FREE PATCH AREA
;
            ORG 0100H
            JMP START
;
MSG1        DB 1AH,' WSPATCH REV. 1.0',0DH,0AH
            DB 'INSTALLATION PROGRAM FOR WORDSTAR PATCHES:',0DH,0AH
            DB ' -BLINKING CURSOR',0DH,0AH
            DB ' -ARROW KEY RE-DEFINITION',0DH,0AH
            DB 'FOR OSBORNE CP/M 2.2A-00F & WORDSTAR 2.26-
            01D',0DH,0AH,0AH,0AH
            DB 'ENTER DESIRED BLINK RATE (0 TO 9)',0DH,0AH
            DB '0 IS VERY FAST, 9 IS VERY SLOW',0DH,0AH
            DB 0DH,0AH,0AH
            DB ' BLINK RATE ? $'
;
MSG2        DB 0DH,0AH,0AH,'**** MODIFICATIONS COMPLETED SUCCESS-
            FULLY ****',0DH,0AH
            DB '$'
;
; BODY OF PATCHES LOCATED HERE
;
            ORG PATCHSP
PATCHST
;******** CURSOR BLINK ROUTINE
;
PATCH1      CPI 06H             ; IS THIS AN I/P FROM CONSOLE CALL ?
            JNZ RETRN1          ; NO: RETURN TO WS
            PUSH H
TIMSET      LXI D,0000H         ; BLINK RATE TIMR (FILLED IN BY IN-
                                STAL ROUTINE)
LOOP3       PUSH D
            CALL BIOS+6         ; BIOS CALL TO GET CONS STATUS
            POP D
            ORA A
            JNZ RETRN2          ; RETURN TO WS IF CHAR. READY
            DCR E
            JNZ LOOP3
            DCR D
            JNZ LOOP3           ; DECR. TIMER AND LOOP UNTIL READY
            LHLD 0EF5AH         ; GET BIOS CURSOR POINTER
            MOV A,M
            XRI 80H             ; TOGGLE CURSOR (UNDERLINE ON/OFF)
            MOV M,A
            JMP TIMSET          ; RESTART TIMER
;
RETRN2      LHLD 0EF5AH         ; CURSOR POINTER
            MOV A,M
            ORI 80H             ; TURN ON CURSOR BEFORE LEAVING
            MOV M,A
            POP H
            MVI A,06            ; RESTORE 'A' CONTENTS
RETRN1      CALL 173FH          ; WS INST. THAT DIVERSION REPLACED
            RET                 ; RETURN TO WORDSTAR
;
;******** ARROW KEY REDEFINITION ROUTINE
;
PATCH2      LHLD 0E17FH         ;BIOS ARROW KEY DEF'N POINTER
            MVI M,05H           ; ^E
            INX H
            MVI M,04H           ; ^D
            INX H
            MVI M,18H           ; ^X
            INX H
            MVI M,13H           ; ^S
;           JMP 2D10H           ; WS INST THAT DIVERSION REPLACED
                                (ALSO RETURN TO WS)
            ret                 ; above changed to return
;
; following patch resets cp/m arrow keys
;
patch3      lhld 0E17FH
            mvi m,0bh           ; ^k
            inx h
            mvi m,0ch           ; ^l
            inx h
            mvi m,0ah           ; ^j
            inx h
            mvi m,08h           ; ^h
            ret
PATCHND                         ;
; END OF BODY OF PATCHES
;
; START OF PATCH INSERTION ROUTINE
;
;**** CHECK VALIDITY OF FILENAME
START       LXI SP,STACK        ; LOCAL STACK
            LDA FCB+1           ; FILENAME GIVEN ?
            CPI 20H
            JNZ ONEFILE         ; YES: OK
;
            MVI C,9
            LXI D,ERR5          ; 'NO FILE' MESSAGE TO CONSOLE
            CALL BDOS
            JMP EXIT
```

cont. on page 52

```
;
ONEFILE     LDA FCB+17          ; 2 FILENAMES GIVEN ?
            CPI 20H
            JZ GOODFIL          ; NO: OK
;
            MVI C,9
            LXI D,ERR6          ; 'TWO FILENAME' MSG TO CONSOLE
            CALL BDOS
            JMP EXIT
;
GOODFIL     MVI C,9
            LXI D,MSG1          ; HEADER MESSAGE TO CONSOLE
            CALL BDOS           ; AND REQUEST BLINK RATE
;
RETRY1      MVI C,1
            CALL BDOS           ; INPUT BLINK RATE (1 DIGIT 0 TO 9)
            CPI 03H             ; ^C ?
            JZ EXIT             ; YES: ABORT
            CPI 30H             ; LESS THAN ASCII ZERO ?
            JP CHECK1           ; NO: OK
;
CHERROR     MVI C,9
            LXI D,ERR1          ; VALUE ERROR MSG TO CONSOLE
            CALL BDOS
            JMP RETRY1
;
CHECK1      CPI 3AH             ; GRTR THAN ASCII 9 ?
            JP CHERROR          ; YES: ERROR
            SUI 30H             ; CONVERT TO BCD
            INR A               ; +1
            STA TIMSET+2        ; IMBED VALUE IN PATCH1
;
            MVI C,0DH           ; RESET DISK DRIVES
            CALL BDOS
;
            LXI D,FCB
            MVI C,0FH           ; TRY TO OPEN WS FILE
            CALL BDOS
            INR A               ; FF BECOMES 0 = ERROR
            JNZ FILEOK          ; IF NO ERROR
;
NOFILE      MVI C,9
            LXI D,ERR2          ; 'FILE NOT FOUND' MSG TO CONSOLE
            CALL BDOS
            JMP EXIT
;
;**** READ WORDSTAR INTO CORE
FILEOK      LXI H,1000H         ; READ BUFFER BASE ADRS
LOOP1       SHLD DMAADRS        ; SAVE IT
;
            MVI A,H
            CPI 0B0H            ; READ BUFFER OVERFLOW (OVER B000H)
                                ?
            JNZ NOFLOW          ; NO: OK
;
            MVI C,9
            LXI D,ERR3          ; 'OVERFLOW ERROR' MSG TO CONS
            CALL BDOS
            JMP EXIT
;
NOFLOW      XCHG
            MVI C,1AH           ; CALL TO ST DMA ADRS
            CALL BDOS
;
            MVI C,14H
            LXI D,FCB           ; READ A RECORD INTO READ BUFFER
            CALL BDOS
;
            ORA A               ; END OF FILE ?
            JNZ INSERT          ; YES: INSERT PATCHES
;
            LHLD DMAADRS
            LXI D,128
            DAD D               ; INC DMA ADR BY 128 BYTES
            JMP LOOP1           ; READ NEXT RECORD
;
;**** INSERT DIVERSION FOR PATCH1 (BLINK)
INSERT      LXI D,0F00H         ; MOD BIAS (100H = 1000H)
            LXI H,DIVERT1       ; DIVERSION FRM WS TO PATCH1
            DAD D               ; +BIAS
            DCX H               ; TEST FOR CORRECT VERSION OF
                                WORDSTAR-
            MOV A,M             ; CHECK INST BEFORE DIVERSION
                                LOCATION.
            CPI 00
            JZ CHECK2           ; SAME VERSION: OK
;
VERSERR     MVI C,9
            LXI D,ERR4          ; 'VERSION ERR' MSG TO CONS
            CALL BDOS
            JMP EXIT
;
CHECK2      DCX H
            MOV A,M
            CPI 01              ; CHECK ANOTHER BYTE TO BE SURE
            JNZ VERSERR         ; IF ERROR
;
            INX H
            INX H
            INX H
            LXI B,PATCH1        ; PATCH1 ST ADRS
            MOV M,C             ; INSERT INTO WS
            INX H
            MOV M,B
;
;**** INSERT DIVERSION TO PATCH2
;           LXI H,DIVERT2       ; ADRS OF DIVERSION TO PATCH2
            lxi h,inisub        ; patch2 diversion changed to
                                inisub
            DAD D               ; +BIAS
            mvi m,0c3h          ; store jmp at inisub
            INX H
            LXI B,PATCH2        ; PATCH2 ST ADRS
            MOV M,C             ; INSERT INTO WS
            INX H
            MOV M,B
            inx h
            mvi m,0c3h          ; store jmp at unisub = inisub + 3
            inx h
            lxi b,patch3        ; patch3 st adrs
            mov m,c             ; insert into ws
            inx h
            mov m,b
;
;**** INSERT BODY OF patches INTO WS FREE PATCH AREA
            LXI H,PATCHSP       ; DESTINATION ADRS
            DAD D               ; +BIAS
            XCHG
            LXI H,PATCHSP       ; SOURCE ADRS
            LXI B,PATCHND-
            PATCHST             ; BYTE COUNT
 ; byte count above must be < 124 decimal (07ch)
 :
             DB 0EDH,0B0H       ; Z80 'LDIR' BLOCK MOVE INST
 :
```

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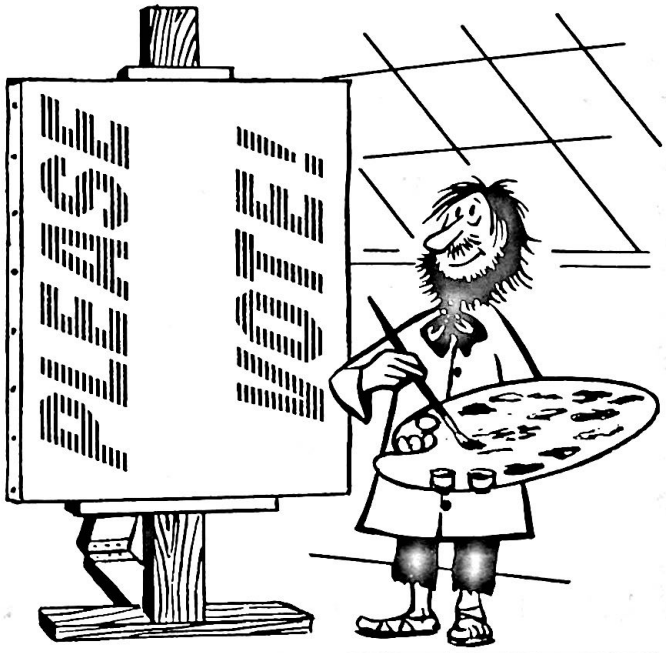
```
;**** PREPARE TO WRITE WORDSTAR BACK TO DISK
            LXI H,0100          ; RESET FCB
            SHLD FCB+14
            LXI H,0000
            SHLD FCB+12
            SHLD FCB+32
            SHLD FCB+34
;
            MVI C,0FH
            LXI D,FCB           ; OPEN WORDSTAR FILE
            CALL BDOS
            INR A               ; FF BECOMES 0 = ERROR
            JZ NOFILE
;
            LXI H,1000H         ; WRITE BUFFER ST ADRS
            SHLD WRTADRS
            XCHG
;
LOOP2       MVI C,1AH           ; CALL TO SET DMA ADRS
            CALL BDOS
;
            MVI C,15H
            LXI D,FCB           ; WRITE ONE RECORD TO DISK
            CALL BDOS
;
            LHLD WRTADRS
            LXI D,128
            DAD D               ; INC DMA ADR BY 128 BYTES
            SHLD WRTADRS
            XCHG
            LHLD DMAADRS        ; IF WRTADRS = END OF READ BFR THEN
                                ALL DONE
            MOV A,L
            CMP E
            JNZ LOOP2           ; IF NOT EQUAL: CONTINUE
            MOV A,H
            CMP D
            JNZ LOOP2           ; IF NOT EQUAL: CONTINUE
;
            MVI C,10H
            LXI D,FCB           ; CLOSE FILE
            CALL BDOS
;
            MVI C,9
            LXI D,MSG2          ; 'TERMINATION MSG' TO CONS
            CALL BDOS
;
EXIT        JMP 0000            ; CP/M WARM START ENTRY
;
;**** STORAGE AND MESSAGES
;
DMAADRS     DW 0                ; READ BFR POINTER
WRTADRS     DW 0                ; WRITE BFR POINTER
;
ERR1        DB 08H,' WRONG!',8,8,8,8,8,8,8,8,'$'
ERR2        DB 0DH,0AH,0AH,'ERROR: FILE NOT FOUND, RESTART AND TRY
            AGAIN!'
            DB 0DH,0AH,'$'
ERR3        DB 0DH,0AH,0AH,'ERROR: READ BUFFER OVERFLOW, BAD SOURCE
            FILE ?'
            DB 0DH,0AH,'$'
ERR4        DB 0DH,0AH,0AH,'ERROR: WORDSTAR FILE CORRUPT OR VERSION
            IS DIFFERENT'
            DB 0DH,0AH,'FROM VERSION EXPECTED BY PATCH (SEE
            ABOVE)',0DH,0AH,'$'
ERR5        DB 1AH,' WSPATCH REV 1.0',0DH,0AH
            DB 'ERROR: WORDSTAR FILENAME.EXT AND SOURCE DRIVE
```

cont. on page 54

```
            MUST',0DH,0AH
            DB 'BE SPECIFIED IN COMMAND LINE. --EG:',0DH,0AH
            DB '  ',1BH,6CH,'WSPATCH B:WS.COM',1BH,6DH,' --TRY
            AGAIN!',0DH,0AH
            DB '$'
ERR6        DB 1AH,' WSPATCH REV 1.0',0DH,0AH
            DB 'ERROR: TWO FILENAMES GIVEN IN COMMAND LINE.
            SOURCE',0DH,0AH
            DB 'FILE MUST BE SAME AS DESTINATION FILE. --TRY
            AGAIN!',0DH,0AH,'$'
;
; STACK AREA
            DS 64
STACK
            END
```

* * * * * * * *



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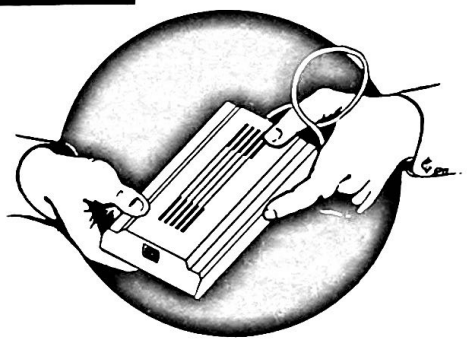

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FOG MEMBER MERCHANDISE

UNIFORM IS BACK IN STOCK!! For those of you anxiously waiting, it should be on the way to you by the time you read this. It was shipped the day before this was written so we have no listing on all the enhancements, but a couple of members who have received the replacements for the non-working discs have expressed great satisfaction.

We are also formally adding SmartKey2 and SmartPrint2 to the line. These programs work on the Executive as well as most other systems. We hope someone will submit a review soon! For SmartKey1 and SmartPrint1 owners, you can only get the upgrades through Heritage Software, 2130 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007, (213)-737-7252. Details didn't arrive in time for this issue.

SmartKey2 is $89.95, SmartPrint2 is $49.95. If you get both at the same time, the price is $129.95.

As noted last month, C.I. Software has made their program HexPrintR+ available to the membership. The price is $39.00. This program works with WordStar to give you full control over your dot matrix printer and was used in the article by Hanns Trostli (earlier in this issue) to create the Portuguese characters.

In December, we reported the addition of the book on WordStar by Tony Bove and Cheryl Rhodes. This book is a must for anyone looking for assistance in using WordStar. The price is $7.25.

One of the most popular items in the FOG inventory is the T-shirts with the FOG logo. These T-shirts are soft Osborne blue in color and are Hanes 100% cotton. They are cut large to allow for shrinkage. Sizes available are small (34-36), medium (38-40), large (42-44), and X-large (46-48).

The price is $8.00 each (two for $15.00) for members and $10.00 each for non-members so be sure to include your membership number. Add $1.00 for shipping.

FOG has several software packages available for sale. SmartKey1, SmartPrint1, and the CP/M Extension Utilities were all reviewed in Vol. I, Issue 10 (August, 1982). Further notes on and a new review of SmartKey1 were included in the November, 1983 (Vol. III, Issue 2). SmartKey1 will not work with the Executive.

One additional item has been added to the FBN Software line. This is a program called Unprotect. Unprotect is an 8080/8085/Z80 machine language program which runs under CP/M. Its purpose is to decrypt Microsoft BASIC (Release 5) files which have been saved in a protected format. It is hoped that anyone buying and using this software will remember that this program should only be used to correct errors in PROTECTed files of which you have a legal copy. Please bear in mind that piracy is both illegal and a sure way to reduce the software available for your use.

Prices on the software are as follows:

SmartKey1 only	$60.00
SmartPrint1 only	$35.00
SmartKey1/SmartPrint1	$85.00
SmartKey2 only	$89.95
SmartPrint2 only	$49.95
SmartKey2/SmartPrint2	$129.95
CP/M Ext. Utility Pkg	$39.00
Unprotect	$29.00
UNIFORM	$49.95
HexPrintR	$39.00

We also have available a set of two cassette tapes which are designed for the new Osborne user. Created for a 1.2 rev. model Osborne, the tapes will be very helpful if listening to a step-by-step procedure is an easier way for you (or the family) to learn. The tapes are equally useful for a 1.3 or 1.4 rev. Osborne as the only real change the that the FORMAT program is now a part of the COPY program. (On the 1.2 rev. these were two separate programs.) The set of tapes are $25.00.

California members please add sales tax to the cost of any of these items. Overseas members should add first class airmail postage to the cost of any of the FOG merchandise.

To order any of these items, please send your payment in an envelope marked "MERCHANDISE" to FOG, P.O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please include your membership-account number. If shipment cannot be made, your check will be returned. We cannot sell the manuals separately.

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The **FIRST OSBORNE GROUP (FOG)** has been formed as a User's Group for persons using or interested in portable computers and/or the CP/M disk operating system with related software. In September of 1983, there was over 5400 members from around the world. Most attend local group meetings at over 300 locations.

Computer systems owned or used by members include the Osborne 1 (single and double density), the Osborne Executive 1, all models of the Morrow MicroDecision, the Zorba, all models of the KayPro, several MicroMates, and many more. Special interest groups organized to augment a network of local group meetings include dBase II, Ham radio operators, Personal Pearl.

Dues in FOG are $24.00 per year. This entitles each member to a copy of the ***FOGHORN*** each month as well as access to the disk library. Local group meetings are open to the public without charge although most restrict access to the library to the membership. The FOG library contains only public domain software. Piracy (the copying of proprietary software) is strongly condemned.

In the United States, the ***FOGHORN*** is normally mailed by non-profit bulk mail. (FOG Is a corporation in the state of California and has obtained its non-profit, tax exempt status from both the state and federal governments.) For those members who live out of the country or who prefer first class delivery of their ***FOGHORN***, additional postage must be added to the annual dues. See the chart on page 2 for details.

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